



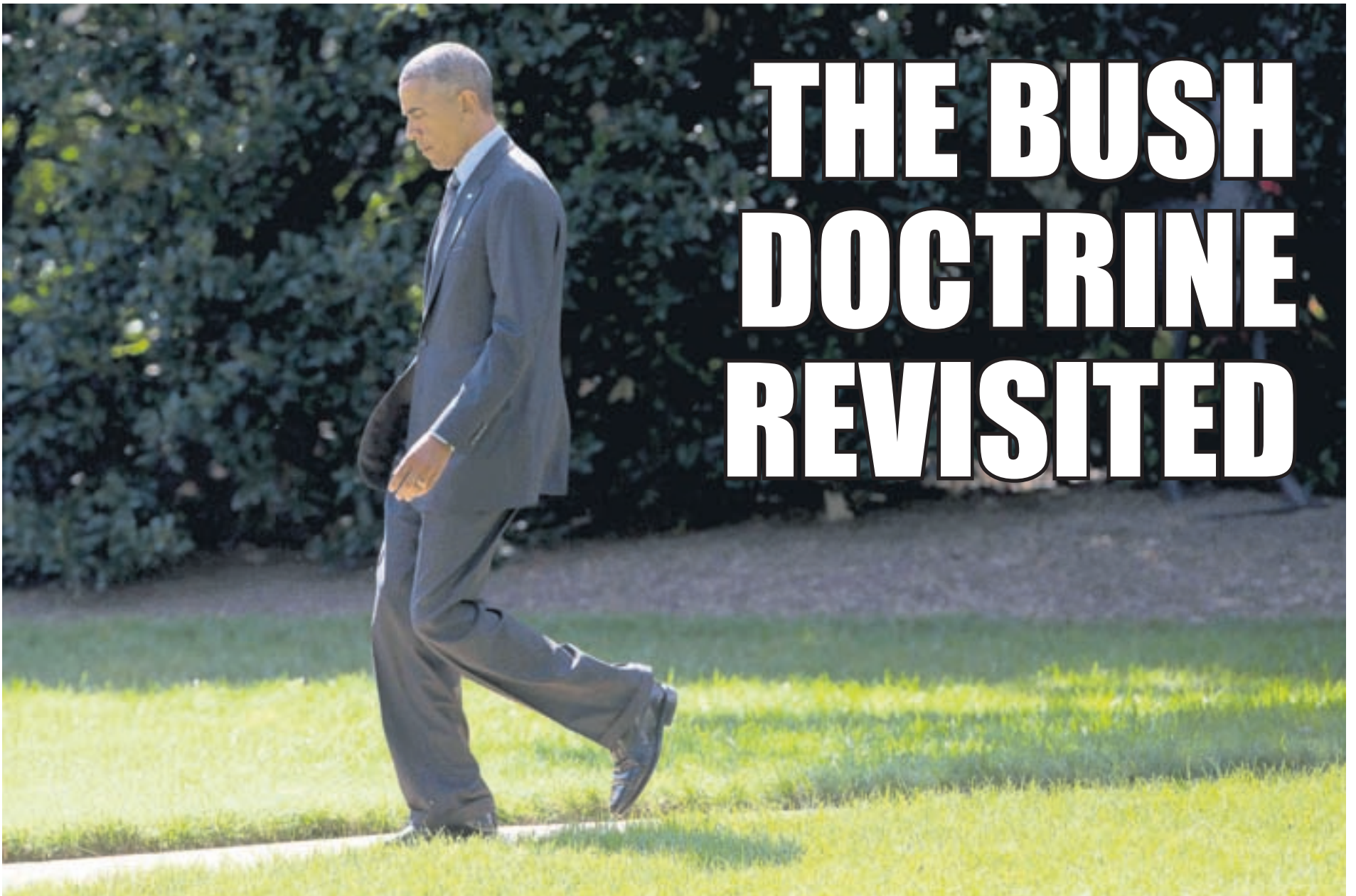
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# Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel: +297 582-7800 Saturday, September 13, 2014



## THE BUSH DOCTRINE REVISITED

President Barack Obama walks on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Friday, Sept. 12, 2014, to board the Marine One helicopter for a trip to Baltimore. Obama is using the legal grounding of the congressional authorizations President George W. Bush relied on more than a decade ago to go to war as he readies intensified airstrikes in Iraq and Syria.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

## Can Obama Wage War Without Congress?

**STEPHEN BRAUN**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama is using the legal grounding of the congressional authorizations President George W. Bush relied on more than a decade ago to go to war as he readies intensified airstrikes in Iraq and Syria. But Obama has made no effort

to ask Congress to explicitly authorize his own conflict. The White House said again Friday that Bush-era congressional authorizations for the war on al-Qaida and the Iraq invasion give Obama authority to act without new approval by Congress under the 1973 War Powers Act. That law, passed during the Vietnam

War, serves as a constitutional check on presidential power to declare war without congressional consent. It requires presidents to notify Congress within 48 hours of military action and limits the use of military forces to no more than 60 days unless Congress authorizes force or declares war. "It is the view of this admin-

istration and the president's national security team specifically that additional authorization from Congress is not required, that he has the authority that he needs to order the military actions," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said. He said there were no plans to seek consent from Congress. "At this point we

have not, and I don't know of any plan to do so at this point," he said. The administration's tightly crafted legal strategy has short-circuited the congressional oversight that Obama once championed.

**Continued on page 3**



## In South Africa; Pistorius guilty of culpable homicide

SARAH LYALL  
ALAN COWELL

© 2014 New York Times

**PRETORIA, South Africa** - Oscar Pistorius, the disabled track star who once commanded stellar heights of international competition at the Paralympic and Olympic Games, was found guilty Friday of culpable homicide, equivalent to manslaughter, after being acquitted of murder charges for killing his girlfriend.

Judge Thokozile Matilda Masipa agreed to extend Pistorius' bail until his sen-

The prosecution sought to prove that he intended to kill her, but he called her death an accident and a mistake.

Masipa asked Pistorius, 27, to stand in the wooden dock in the North Gauteng High Court here in the South African capital as she pronounced her verdict. The athlete, dressed in a dark suit, white shirt and black tie, looked straight ahead, his hands crossed in front of him, seemingly impassive after several instances during the trial when he wept, wailed and retched.

cannot be said that the accused did not entertain a genuine belief that there was an intruder in the house." He could thus not be found guilty on murder charges, Masipa said.

But, she said, Pistorius had been negligent when he opened fire, knowing that somebody might be inside the bathroom.

"A reasonable person with a similar disability would have foreseen the possibility that the person behind the door" would have been killed, the judge said. Pistorius was born without



Oscar Pistorius, the disabled Paralympic and Olympic Game track star, reacts during his trial as Judge Thokozile Masipa delivers her verdict at the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria, South Africa, Sept. 12, 2014. Pistorius was found guilty on Friday of culpable homicide, equivalent to manslaughter, after being acquitted of murder charges for killing his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.  
(Aron Skuy/Pool via The New York Times)

tencing hearing begins, on Oct. 13. She said she believed the defense's explanation that Pistorius had sold his property to pay his legal fees and dismissed suggestions that he would try to flee the country.

The verdict marked the culmination of a closely watched drama that transfixed many around the world. Pistorius shot and killed his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, 29, in the early hours of Feb. 14, 2013, saying he believed an intruder had entered his home.

Wielding a handgun loaded with hollow-point ammunition, he opened fire on a locked bathroom door only to discover when he broke the door down with a cricket bat that Steenkamp was inside.

In the hushed courtroom, with members of both the Steenkamp and the Pistorius families in attendance, the judge told Pistorius that he had acted negligently when he opened fire.

The prosecution, she said, had failed to bring "strong circumstantial evidence" to support its case of murder, while Pistorius' version of events "could reasonably be true."

After the shooting, Pistorius had been prompt in calling for help, the judge said. He prayed to God and sought to resuscitate Steenkamp, a model and law-school graduate, and his behavior, the judge said, "was inconsistent" with that of someone who wanted to commit murder.

Moreover, she said, "it

fibula bones and both legs were amputated below the knee at age 11 months, leaving him to compete on scythe-like prostheses that inspired the nickname Blade Runner, after the movie. As an athlete, fighting adversity and competing against able-bodied as well as disabled athletes, Pistorius became an emblem of South Africa's self-image as a land that punches above its weight. But the killing stripped the sheen off what had been a glittery story of success and celebrity.

Since there are no jury trials in South Africa, the judge arrived at her verdict with the help of two aides, known as assessors. She said the findings were unanimous. □

## LATIN & CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

### Dominican pursues missing plane

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)** — The Dominican Republic has asked the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for help in tracking down a small jet that never reached its destination. National Drug Control Agency Director Julio Cesar Souffront said Friday that he is working with DEA officials to find the jet and determine whether it was used for drug trafficking. Officials also have asked authorities in Venezuela and Colombia for assistance. Air traffic controllers lost contact with the twin-engine Hawker Siddeley jet late Wednesday after it took off with a flight plan to Punta Cana. The plane had only two people on board and was registered to a company based in Dover, Delaware. Authorities have not found any wreckage. Souffront says the jet could be in Venezuela, a repeat of a similar situation that occurred in 2011. □

### Puerto Rico sees cruises increase

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — Officials in Puerto Rico say the number of summer cruise ship passengers visiting the U.S. territory has increased in the past three years. Port Authority Director Victor Suarez says more than 175,000 passengers visited the island in July and August, a 28 percent increase from the same period last year and a 135 percent increase from 2012. Suarez said Friday that through the first eight months of the year, the number of cruise ships visiting Puerto Rico increased by 41 percent over 2013 and by 126 percent compared with 2012. Puerto Rico is preparing for the first visit of Royal Caribbean's Quantum of the Seas, which can carry more than 6,000 passengers. The government is expanding a pier in historic Old San Juan to accommodate ships of that size. □

### Venezuela extending border rule

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Venezuela's president says the nighttime closure of the border with Colombia will continue for three more months as part of the government's campaign to combat smuggling of oil and food. President Nicolas Maduro announced the decision this week, saying the seven-hour shutdown of border crossings that began Aug. 11 has been successful in curbing smugglers. Venezuelans are faced with shortages of basic pantry staples, and the problem has been aggravated by some people selling heavily subsidized oil and basic goods across the border in Colombia, where prices are higher. Widespread shortages were among the factors that sparked a bloody street protest movement during the spring. The 1,400 mile (2,240-kilometer) border is closed between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. □

### Party sweeps Montserrat's votes

**BRADES, Montserrat (AP)** — A new political party has swept an election held in the tiny Caribbean island of Montserrat. The People's Democratic Movement won seven of nine seats in the Legislative Assembly. Artist and former journalist Donaldson Romeo was being sworn in as the new premier on Friday. He's called for more jobs, housing and transparency, and exploration of geothermal power. Government-run ZJB-Radio Montserrat said preliminary results show Romeo's party secured 50 percent of votes compared with 35 percent obtained by the former ruling Movement for Change and Prosperity. The Elections Commission says 71 percent of the 3,866 registered voters participated in Thursday's election. Montserrat saw about half of its 12,000 inhabitants leave after the Soufriere Hills volcano erupted in 1997 and killed 19 people, burying much of the British territory in ash. □





## US house leader promises to back new Iraqi leader

**DONNA CASSATA**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Republican leader of the U.S. House of Representatives on Friday promised Iraq's prime minister that the House will provide the new government in Baghdad the assistance necessary U.S. to defeat Islamic militants.

In an unusual move, Haider al-Abadi wrote to Speaker John Boehner earlier this week, promising to protect religious and ethnic groups and describing the reforms he is instituting. The prime minister also vowed that Iraq will lead the fight against the Islamic State group — with U.S. help.

"We face an enemy with conventional military capabilities never before wielded by a terrorist group," the prime minister wrote. "We therefore need adequate security assistance and military support from the United States to combat ISIL. Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, is an alternative name and acronym for the Islamic State group.

Boehner wrote to al-Abadi that he will work with lawmakers to provide Iraq with what it needs.

"From military aid to technical and training assistance, we will stand with you to ensure more innocents are not slaughtered — and that the threat does not metastasize further," the speaker said.

Boehner alluded to the years, dollars and American lives lost that the United States has invested in Iraq, describing the "painful sacrifices" to help the country. He also acknowledged the threat from the Islamic militants. □

# Can Obama wage war without Congress?

Continued from Front

The White House's use of post-9/11 congressional force authorizations for the broadening air war has generated a chorus of criticism that the justifications are, at best, a legal stretch. "Committing American lives to war is such a serious question, it should not be left to one person to decide, even if it's the president," said former Illinois Rep. Paul Findley, 92, who helped write the War Powers Act.

As a U.S. senator from Illinois running for president in 2007, Obama tried to prevent Bush's administration from taking any military action against Iran unless it was explicitly authorized by Congress. A Senate resolution Obama sponsored died in committee.

Nearly seven years later, U.S. fighter jets and unmanned drones armed with missiles have flown 150 airstrikes against the Islamic State group over the past five weeks in Iraq under Obama's orders — even though he has yet to formally ask Congress to authorize the expanding war.

Obama told the nation Wednesday he would unleash U.S. strikes inside Syria for the first time, along with intensified bombing in Iraq, as part of "a steady, relentless effort" to root out Islamic State extremists. Obama has not said how long the air campaign will last.

The White House has cited the 2001 military authorization Congress gave Bush to attack any countries, groups or people who planned, authorized, committed or aided the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Earnest on Thursday de-

scribed the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force, generally known as the AUMF, as one that Obama "believes continues to apply to this terrorist organization that is operating in Iraq and Syria."

Earnest said Thursday that Obama welcomes support from Congress but that it isn't necessary. "The president has the authority, the statutory authority that he needs," Earnest said. Others disagreed.

authorization under the 2002 resolution that approved the invasion of Iraq to identify and destroy weapons of mass destruction.

That resolution also cited the threat from al-Qaida,



**FILE** — President George W. Bush speaks at the White House in Washington, May 1, 2007. President Barack Obama is using the legal grounding of the congressional authorizations President George W. Bush relied on more than a decade ago to go to war as he readies intensified airstrikes in Iraq and Syria.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

The Islamic State group, which was founded in 2004, has not been linked to the 9/11 attacks, although its founders later pledged allegiance to Osama bin Laden. In February, al-Qaida declared that the Islamic State group was no longer formally part of the terror organization.

And in recent weeks, senior U.S. officials, including Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and Matthew Olsen, head of the National Counterterrorism Center, have drawn significant distinctions between al-Qaida and the Islamic State group.

"I actually think the 2001 AUMF argument is pretty tortured," said Rep. Jim Himes, a Democrat who serves on the House Intelligence Committee. "They are essentially saying that ISIL is associated with al-Qaida, and that's not obvious," Himes said, using an alternate acronym for the Islamic State group. "Stretching it like this has dangerous implications." Himes supports a new congressional vote for a specific IS group authorization, as does another Democrat on the Intelligence Committee, Rep. Adam Schiff. The White House also finds

which Congress said then was operating inside Iraq. But the U.S. later concluded there were no ties between al-Qaida and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein or his government, and the group formally known as al-Qaida in Iraq — which later evolved into the Islamic State group — didn't form until 2004, after the U.S.-led invasion.

Obama is using both authorizations as authority to act even though he publicly sought their repeal last year. In a key national security address at the National Defense University in May 2013, □





## Toronto Mayor Rob Ford withdraws re-election bid



This photo shows Mayor Rob Ford in Toronto. Ford has withdrawn his re-election bid for mayor, Friday, Sept. 12, 2104, as he seeks treatment for a tumor in his abdomen and his brother has registered to run his in place.

(AP Photo/Darren Calabrese)

**ROB GILLIES**

**Associated Press**

**TORONTO (AP)** — Toronto Mayor Rob Ford withdrew his re-election bid Friday as he seeks treatment for a tumor in his abdomen, dramatically ending a campaign he had doggedly pursued despite a stint in rehab and calls for him to quit amid drug and alcohol scandals. But he announced his brother would run in his place, saying “we cannot go backwards.”

Analysts say the decision is unlikely to change the outcome of the mayoral election that Ford had been widely expected to lose after a string of revelations involving crack-smoking, public drunkenness and outrageous behavior. But Toronto won't see the last of Ford anytime soon.

He said he has opted to seek a City Council seat representing a district in his home suburb of Etobicoke, where his brash everyman style and conservative fiscal policies first gained a faithful following that became known as Ford Nation. “My heart is heavy when I tell you that I'm unable to continue my campaign for re-election as your mayor,” Ford said in a statement. “I have asked Doug to run to become the next Mayor of Toronto, because we need him. We cannot go backwards.”

Doug Ford, a city councilor who has been the mayor's most fiery defender, submitted his papers to run for mayor Friday, which was the deadline to sign up. He will face two other major candidates in the Oct. 27 election.

Ford's decision came two days after he was hospitalized and the tumor was discovered. Biopsy results won't be back for a week

and a definitive diagnosis is pending.

“As many of you know I've been dealing with a serious medical issue, the details of which are unknown. But I know that with the love and support of my family, I will get through this,” Ford said.

The international spotlight first fell on Ford in May 2013, when Toronto Star and the U.S. website Gawker reported the existence of a video apparently showing the mayor inhaling from a crack pipe. He denied the existence of the video for months but finally admitted to using crack after police announced they had obtained it. The ensuing uproar climaxed with the Toronto City Council stripping Ford of most of his mayoral powers. It lacked the authority to oust him from office because Ford was not convicted of a crime.

Revelations of Ford's inappropriate behavior have piled up over the months. Documents showed that former staffers of the mayor told police he was intoxicated at work and drank while driving. A video emerged of an intoxicated Ford threatening to kill someone in an obscenity-laced rant. And school documents recently revealed that the mayor once forced students to roll in goose droppings when he had a side job as a high school football team coach.

The mayor has been the subject of an ongoing police investigation but has not been charged.

When reports emerged this year of a second video showing him apparently smoking crack, Ford entered rehab for two months and returned to work and campaigning in June.

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Uxbridge, Mass:

## Woman detained after 3 dead babies discovered

**J. McDERMOTT**  
**DENISE LAVOIE**  
**Associated Press**

BLACKSTONE, Massachusetts (AP) — A woman who lived at a squalid, vermin-infested home where the bodies of three infants were found this week was arraigned Friday on charges including fetal death concealment and ordered held without bail as the search for more possible bodies continued.

Detectives investigating a case of reckless endangerment of children found the bodies at a house littered with soiled diapers in Blackstone, southwest of Boston. Four other children had been removed from the home two weeks earlier.

Erika Murray, 31, was arrested Thursday night on charges including fetal death concealment, witness intimidation and permitting substantial injury to a child. Not guilty pleas were entered Friday on her behalf.

Her attorney, Keith Halpern, suggested that Murray struggled with mental illness.

"You want answers in circumstances like this ... mental illness doesn't always provide those kinds of answers," Halpern said after Murray's arraignment. He did not elaborate on her condition.

Murray was the mother of the two oldest children removed from the home last month, but no birth records existed for the two youngest, police said.

The children first came to the attention of police two weeks ago after a 10-year-old boy who lived in the house went to a neighbor's home and asked, "How do you get a baby to stop crying?" said Tim Connolly, a spokesman for Worcester District Attorney Joseph Early Jr.

The neighbor went with the boy and found the crying baby covered in feces.

Detectives found the body of an infant in a closet on Wednesday and the remains of what appeared to be two other newborns on

Thursday, police said. Early said Friday that authorities had not ruled out the possibility that more bodies may be inside. The search of the home, near the town's po-

lice station, is expected to take several days.

The four other children, ages 13, 10, 3 and 6 months old, were removed from the house on Aug. 28, after

the neighbor notified police about their living conditions, authorities said. They were placed in the custody of the state Department of Children and Families.

The department said in a statement that it did not previously have an open case involving the family and that it learned about the situation through a report of possible abuse or neglect.

A man was also living in the house, but he has not been charged, Connolly said.

The state Department of Children and Families said Friday that it had received a report of abuse or neglect in 2007, but that it was unsupported and no case was ever opened with the family. The agency did not release details on the nature of the report.

Investigators working Friday in the small house, which has been condemned by health officials, were wearing hazardous material suits. Police said skeletal remains of several animals, including cats and a dog, were also found inside.

Authorities said they did not know how old the babies were. The state medical examiner was examining the remains.



Erika Murray, center, stands between her lawyer Keith Halpern, left, and a court officer during her arraignment at Uxbridge District Court in Uxbridge, Mass. on Friday, Sept. 12, 2014. Murray, 31, was arrested Thursday night on charges including fetal death concealment, witness intimidation and permitting substantial injury to a child. Not guilty pleas were entered Friday on her behalf. Detectives investigating a case of reckless endangerment of children found the bodies this week at the house littered with soiled diapers in Blackstone, about 50 miles southwest of Boston.

(AP Photo/Paul Kapteyn, Pool)

## Escaped school shooter captured near prison

**MARK GILLISPIE**  
**JOHN SEEWER**  
**Associated Press**

LIMA, Ohio (AP) — A teenager convicted of killing three students at a high school in the state of Ohio scrambled over a fence to escape a state prison with two other prisoners and was captured nearly six hours later hiding by a church early Friday, authorities said.

T.J. Lane, 19, was caught only about 100 yards (meters) from the prison by two State Highway Patrol troopers at 1:20 a.m. A second prisoner had been caught almost immediately after the Thursday night escape, and troopers apprehended the third three hours after finding Lane.

Lane's brief taste of freedom frightened residents in Chardon, the community outside of Cleveland where Lane fatally shot three students and

wounded two others. At his sentencing hearing last year, Lane unbuttoned a dress shirt to reveal a T-shirt



T.J. Lane smirks as he listens to the judge during his sentencing in Chardon, Ohio.

(AP Photo/Duncan Scott)

scrawled with the word "killer."

He wore a similar shirt during the shootings. He cursed and made an obscene gesture as the judge gave him three consecutive life sentences.

Police officers were sent late Thursday to guard

the homes of the families of Lane's victims, while school officials huddled and ultimately decided to cancel classes Friday and make counseling available for students and the larger community. "The last several hours have been very difficult as we come to grips with this situation," Chardon schools superintendent Michael Hanlon said at a news conference early Friday after Lane was caught. The escape occurred at Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution, a minimum- and medium-security prison in Lima about 80 miles south of Toledo. Asked why a convicted killer was not at a more secure prison, warden Kevin Jones said: "That will be something we'll have to sit down and look at."

Jones said he saw Lane after he was captured and that the teen did not say anything. An investigation

is underway to determine how the men, who were outside for recreation, managed to climb over the prison's perimeter fence, the warden said.

Authorities wouldn't say whether Lane and the other two prisoners planned their escapes together. A spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction said Lane did not resist when troopers found him.

Authorities didn't release information about the prisoner who was caught almost immediately.

Lt. Eric Caudill at the highway patrol's Columbus hub confirmed the third prisoner was taken into custody around 4:20 a.m. Friday but said he didn't immediately have details about how or where. That prison was identified as 45-year-old Clifford Opperud, who was serving time for robbery, burglary and kidnapping.



# Closure warning goes to Trump Taj Mahal workers



The Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort is seen in Atlantic City N.J. Trump Entertainment Resorts on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, filed for protection in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, Del. saying it has liabilities of more than \$100 million. The owner of the Trump Taj Mahal casino has sent notices to more than 3,100 employees warning it could be shut down in November.

(AP Photo/Wayne Parry)

**WAYNE PARRY**  
Associated Press  
ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — The owner of the Trump

Taj Mahal casino has sent notices to more than 3,100 employees warning it could be shut down in November.

The Taj Mahal would be the fifth Atlantic City

casino to close this year. The town started the year with 12 casinos. Trump Entertainment Resorts told The Associated Press it filed the notices earlier this week, saying it could close Nov. 13. The company filed for bankruptcy on Tuesday and threatened to close the Taj Mahal if it doesn't get concessions from its unions. Local 54 of the United HERE union says Trump Entertainment wants Taj Mahal workers to give up their health insurance and pension plans in return for keeping the company open. But union president Bob McDevitt said that even if the union agreed to those conditions — which it won't — the savings would amount to \$11 million a year, which won't help a company drowning under more than \$285 million worth of debt. In its bankruptcy filing

in Delaware, Trump Entertainment listed assets of no more than \$50,000, and liabilities of between \$100 million to \$500 million. The company missed its quarterly tax payment due last month, and says it doesn't have the cash to make an interest payment to lenders due at the end of the month. It also says both its Internet gambling partners have taken steps to end their contracts with Trump Entertainment. The notices are required under federal law to give at least 60 days' notice of a company shutdown or large-scale layoff. So far, the Atlantic Club, Showboat and Revel have shuttered, and Trump Plaza is closing Tuesday. A Florida developer has offered \$90 million for Revel at a bankruptcy court auction later this month. □

## Atlantic City casino revenues down 1.2%

**WAYNE PARRY**  
Associated Press  
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Atlantic City's casino revenue declined by 1.2 percent in August compared with a year ago as another gambling hall shut down at the end of the month. The 11 casinos operating during August won \$294.4 million from gamblers, down from \$298 million a year ago. The Showboat closed on Aug. 31 but had been slowly ramping down its operations during the month. Figures released by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement began to show the impact Atlantic City's casino consolidation is having on the market's revenue stream. The 1.2 percent decline is a year-to-year comparison including the Showboat, and the Atlantic Club, which closed in January of this year but was operating in August 2013. Not counting those two casinos, and including Internet gambling money, which

didn't exist a year ago, Atlantic City's market saw an increase of 10 percent for the month. Internet gambling brought in \$10.5 million in August, up \$500,000 from a month earlier. So far, three of the 12 casinos with which Atlantic City began the year have closed. In addition to Showboat, the Atlantic Club closed in January; Revel shut down Sept. 2, and Trump Plaza is closing Tuesday. Its owner is also threatening to close the Trump Taj Mahal in November. Next month's revenue report will also reflect the first full month that Showboat was closed, as well as the closure of Revel. The two biggest monthly declines in August were posted by doomed casinos. Trump Plaza reported a 45 percent decline, to \$4.8 million, and Revel was down more than 40 percent to \$12.1 million. The biggest gain was at the Tropicana, which was up more than 46 percent in August, to \$31.3 million. Tropicana

President Tony Rodio said the casino had a great month at table games, and at slots, where revenue was up by 26.4 percent. The Golden Nugget was up 34 percent to \$16.7 million. The market-leading Borgata was up 5.2 percent to \$65.8 million for the month. The figures came as a Wall Street analyst, Moody's Investors Service, issued a report saying the potential gains from New Jersey moving to allow its casinos and racetracks to offer sports betting will be offset by this week's bankruptcy filing by Trump Entertainment Resorts, and continued willingness by New Jersey officials to consider allowing casinos in other parts of the state beyond Atlantic City. Trump Entertainment sent notices this week to more than 3,100 employees warning it could shut down the Trump Taj Mahal on Nov. 13 if it doesn't win major concessions from its labor unions. That would make it the fifth Atlantic City casino to close this year. □



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## US Financial Front:

# American retail sales gain slightly on autos in August

PATRICIA COHEN  
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Anyone who waited to buy school supplies on a snaking checkout line at Staples last month may not be surprised that on Friday the Commerce Department reported a 0.6 percent increase in retail sales for August.

That growth, adding a pebble to the optimists' side of the balance scale, nonetheless does little to change the widespread sense among economists that the nation's economic recovery remains on a relatively modest, sometimes halting, track.

"The issue is not a question of whether we're growing or shrinking, but whether we're growing or accelerating," said Steven Blitz, chief economist at ITG Research. "This data says we're growing, but without accelerating."

"You do not have this grand expansion in discretionary income," he continued. "The consumer has a limited budget to spend." So home improvement purchases one month might be replaced by spending on clothes the next.

Michael Gapen, Barclays' chief U.S. economist, agreed that the latest data on sales shows "consumer spending will be modest," adding "it doesn't look like it's downshifting, but it doesn't look like it's upshifting either."

Retail sales - which rose to a seasonally adjusted \$444.4 billion for the month - are a prime economic engine, accounting for about 45 percent of total consumption. This month's figures are drawing particular attention in anticipation of next week's meeting of the Federal Open Market

Committee, the Federal Reserve's policymaking group.

The stepped up pace of purchases of autos and trucks helped lift retail sales the most, but there were increases in nearly every category, from electronics and building supplies to groceries and clothing. Not counting the increase in auto sales, spending rose by 0.3 percent. Back-to-school sales tax holidays in 16 states may have helped nudge consumers into stores. The falloff in gasoline sales, economists said, was expected, given the dip in gas prices.

News that the government revised July's retail sales from an initial estimate of zero to 0.3 percent was welcomed by some economists even more than August's 0.6 percent rise. The initial July report spurred worries that "the consumer-led growth we were taking for granted might be drying up," said Douglas Handler, chief economist at IHS, a Boston-based global information company. "The revision really dispels that a bit."

While the economy is in its fifth year of recovery from the low point reached in the middle of 2009, many Americans are still struggling with low wages, reduced hours, and difficulty in finding decent jobs. At the Federal Open Market Committee meeting in June, Janet L. Yellen, the Fed's chairwoman, expressed confidence in the "underlying strength in the economy," but noted that a lack of wage growth would cause her to "worry about downside risk to consumer spending."

August's job growth was disappointing with employ-



A woman passes an active wear display at a J.C. Penney store, in New York. The Commerce Department released retail sales data for August on Friday, Sept. 12, 2014.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ers adding only 142,000 workers. More troubling was the continuing drop in the proportion of working-age adults in the labor force, which reached a 30-year low last month.

Some economists fear that people who lost their jobs during the bleakest years of the downturn have dropped out of the workforce altogether.

On Thursday, the Labor

Department reported the unemployment claims rose by 11,000 for the first week in September to a seasonally adjusted high of 315,000, the highest level since June. □

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# American cabbies cry foul over body odor test

ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Body odor is among 52 criteria that officials at San Diego International Airport use to judge taxi drivers. Taxi drivers say that smacks of prejudice and discrimination. For years, inspectors with the San Diego Regional Airport Authority run down their checklist for each cabbie — proof of insurance, functioning windshield wipers, adequate tire treads, good brakes. Drivers are graded pass, fail or needs fixing.

Anyone who flunks the smell test is told to change before picking up another customer.

Leaders of the United Taxi Workers of San Diego union say the litmus perpetuates a stereotype that predominantly foreign-born taxi drivers smell bad. A 2013 survey of 331 drivers by San Diego State University and Center on Policy Initiatives found 94 percent were immigrants and 65 percent were from East Africa.

Drivers wonder how inspectors determine who reeks. Driver Abel Seifu, 36, from

Ethiopia, suspects they sniff inconspicuously during friendly conversations in the staging area. Airport authority spokeswoman Rebecca Bloomfield said there is "no standard process" to testing.

Others drivers question how inspectors distinguish between them and their cars. The checklist has a separate item for a vehicle's "foul interior odors," which Bloomfield says may include gasoline, vomit or mildew.

"If they want to bring their smell detector, they can use it to test the customers and the drivers," said driver Negus Gebrenarian, 39, from Ethiopia. He, like other drivers, said the stench is just as likely to come from the back seat as it is from the front.

The airport authority says it is enforcing a policy of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, which regulates taxis throughout the region, that prohibits foul-smelling drivers and promotes regular bathing. It also says the practice is about satisfying customers.

"Taxi drivers are often the

first impression that travelers receive when arriving into San Diego and we want to encourage a positive experience," Bloomfield said. Only about three

smelling drivers for years. There was no controversy until a union employee waded through a 568-page airport board agenda and noticed the check-

dismay when she learned about the San Diego practice. She suggested the airport leave it to customers to complain about body odor.



A cab driver waits near his car in line at a depot near the airport Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014, in San Diego. Airport inspectors are judging how taxi drivers smell, a practice that some drivers say may lead to discrimination against immigrants.

(AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

drivers fail to get a passing grade each year, she said. Inspectors have been

list, which had been approved in July for revisions unrelated to the body odor test. KPBS reported on the practice last week.

San Diego's policy appears to be unusually explicit about sniffing out smelly cabbies. Chicago requires that drivers be "clean and neat in their appearance." New York City's wording is similarly broad.

Seattle long evaluated cabbies for body odor associated with infrequent bathing and not washing clothes but dropped that test last month for a more general requirement on cleanliness.

"The industry didn't like it and they felt that we were kind of overstepping: Why are we dictating to them? We don't tell city employees that you've got to shower more often," said Denise Movius, Seattle's deputy director of finance and administrative services.

Bhairavi Desai, executive director of the 18,000-member New York Taxi Workers Alliance, said her face reddened with anger and

"What a dehumanizing way to treat your workers," she said.

Travelers arriving in San Diego on Wednesday were mixed.

Sue Beneventi, 70, thinks cabbies are getting picked on.

"If you're going to say cab drivers, shouldn't you also say waitresses and anyone else who deals with the public?" she said after returning from San Antonio.

Daniel Johnson, an 18-year-old Marine who came from Flint, Michigan, said it's fair to grade on body odor, especially considering the \$70 fare to get to his base. He has felt trapped in smelly cabs in other cities.

"The smell puts a sour expression on your face and you're thinking I just don't want to be in here," he said.



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## In Ukraine; Implementation of EU deal delayed

LAURA MILLS  
PETER LEONARD  
Associated Press

**KIEV, Ukraine (AP)** — European leaders said Friday that they would allow Ukraine to delay putting a landmark trade deal into effect, a major concession to Russia which has repeatedly threatened retaliation if Kiev implements the measure.

was ousted from power following months of protests. Speaking to Ukrainian and European politicians and business leaders in Kiev on Friday, Poroshenko said he had high hopes for a "fragile but efficient peace process" in east Ukraine, where pro-Russian separatists have been battling Ukrainian government forces since April.

electrical generators. Ukrainian troops and Russian-backed rebel forces on Friday exchanged 67 prisoners who had been captured in eastern Ukraine. The transfer, including Russian citizens who served as insurgents, took place outside the main rebel stronghold of Donetsk under the watch of international observers.



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, right, talks to European Parliament President Martin Schulz during a meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, Friday, Sept. 12, 2014. (AP Photo/Mikhail Palinchak, Pool)

"I'm happy that today, with a trilateral meeting we had in Brussels between the European Commission, the Russian government and Ukrainian government, there was broad support for this," European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said in Kiev on Friday. "Let's see if this can now be the basis for a compromise."

Moscow has threatened to block Ukrainian goods to Russia if Kiev lowers trade barriers with Europe. The EU said it would allow Ukraine to maintain its current tariffs until early 2016, but it would still have to undertake major economic and political reform required by the agreement. Earlier in the day, Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko proudly announced that legislators would ratify the landmark deal with Europe on Tuesday, pivoting his country firmly toward the West over half a year after its pro-Russian leader

A cease-fire agreement, signed last week in the Belarusian capital of Minsk, has been riddled with violations from the start. But the deal has helped reduce casualties and brought dozens of prisoners on each side home.

Near midnight on Friday, 33 Russian trucks crossed into Ukraine carrying humanitarian aid for the hard-hit east, Russian customs official Rayan Farkushin was quoted as saying by the Interfax and RIA Novosti news agencies.

A previous Russian humanitarian convoy caused controversy when it entered Ukraine unilaterally in August; Ukrainian officials worried it was cover for bringing in aid to the rebels or spiriting away industrial equipment seized by the rebels.

But the Minsk agreement provided for two additional convoys. Russian officials said the aid would include food, water purifiers and

Poroshenko has struggled to paint the truce — struck amid a major rebel offensive against Ukrainian forces in the region — as a victory. The prisoner exchange has been a key pillar of Poroshenko's argument that Ukraine can benefit by striking a deal with the rebels.

Thirty-six Ukrainian servicemen were released after negotiations, Poroshenko said. Ukrainian forces handed over 31 rebels detained over the five-month conflict.

Shortly after the prisoner exchange, a volley of rocket fire was heard in Donetsk, an almost daily occurrence since the cease-fire went into effect.

The Ukrainian servicemen were driven away from local rebel headquarters around 1:30 a.m. and taken several miles (kilometers) north of Donetsk, where they were met by Ukrainian military officials. □

## Detainees in North Korea test US patience strategy

ERIC TALMADGE  
Associated Press

**TOKYO (AP)** — A U.S. citizen arrested in North Korea for allegedly tearing up his visa and seeking asylum will go before the North's Supreme Court this weekend in a trial almost certain to end quickly with a guilty verdict. Along with two other Americans detained in the North, the young defendant says he has but one hope — for a senior U.S. statesman to come and get him out.

So far there don't seem to be any volunteers.

North Korea's state media has announced that Matthew Miller, in custody since April, will be put on trial on Sunday. The punishment could range from forgiveness and deportation to a lengthy sentence in prison with hard labor. A trial is also expected soon for Jeffrey Fowle, who entered the North as a tourist but was arrested in May for leaving a Bible at a provincial club. The third man is Korean-American missionary Kenneth Bae, who is serving a 15-year sentence for alleged "hostile acts." The U.S. has repeatedly offered to send its envoy for North Korean human rights issues, Robert King, to Pyongyang to seek the freedom of the detainees, but without success. High-level visits have become the norm for securing the release of past detainees.

Former President Bill Clinton came in 2009 to free a couple of jailed journalists. Jimmy Carter made the trip in 2010 to secure the release of Aijalon Gomes, who had been sentenced to eight years of hard labor for illegally crossing into the country to do missionary work. In 2011, the State Department's envoy for North Korean human rights managed to successfully intervene in the case of Korean-American businessman Eddie Yong Su Jun.

But finding a suitable middleman is no easy task, with the Obama administration immersed in bigger global crises and doggedly pursuing a policy of "strategic patience" with the North, which essentially means not getting drawn into engagements that might be seen as bowing to North Korean pressure.

"North Korea's strategy may have worked in the past, but its brinkmanship with the American hostages is occurring against the backdrop of so many other crises that North Korea cannot use this issue to elevate itself as Washington's primary concern," said Scott Snyder, director of the program on U.S.-Korea policy at the Washington D.C.-based Council on Foreign Relations think tank. Snyder said Washington would find it hard to accept if the North linked releasing the Americans to the broader negotiations about its nuclear weapons program. While having a senior U.S. statesman take detainees home has been used by the North to enhance the prestige of its leadership on the domestic stage, he said, "it causes headaches for sitting administrations, who do not want to risk losing control of the policy by having outsiders to their administration step into the picture. "Under these circumstances, a high-level official visit is unlikely because it would entail excessive political risks," he said. "The best option would be for a senior former official with close ties to the Obama administration, but not a former president, to be accepted by both sides for this limited 'rescue mission.'"

The North has not officially demanded a senior representative visit to release the Americans, but it has made no secret of its growing frustration with Obama's cold-shoulder treatment. "It is ridiculous for the Obama administration to continue pinning hope on the bankrupt strategic patience policy," the state-run Korean Central News Agency said in an editorial last month, adding that U.S. efforts to isolate the North have failed to stop it from becoming "a political power, military power and a nuclear weapons state." □



# Evidence growing that Hamas used residential areas

**HAMZA HENDAWI**  
**JOSEF FEDERMAN**  
**Associated Press**  
**GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)**  
Two weeks after the end

el, at least at times. Even Hamas now admits "mistakes" were made. But Hamas says it had little choice in Gaza's crowded

for the deaths of hundreds of Palestinian civilians. "Gaza, from Beit Hanoun in the north to Rafah in the south, is one uninterrupted

is not about whether the Hamas rockets were fired from civilian areas, but exactly how close they were to the actual buildings.

"The Israelis kept saying rockets were fired from schools or hospitals when in fact they were fired 200 or 300 meters (yards) away. Still, there were some mistakes made and they were quickly dealt with," Hamad told The Associated Press, offering the first acknowledgment by a Hamas official that, in some cases, militants fired rockets from or near residential areas or civilian facilities.

The questions lie at the heart of a brewing international legal confrontation: Did Hamas deliberately and systematically fire rockets at Israel from homes, hospitals and schools in the hope that Israel would be deterred from retaliating, as Israel claims? Or did Israel use force excessively, resulting in deaths among people not involved in combat operations?

The answers could help determine whether Israel

or Hamas or both are ultimately accused of violating the international laws of war in a conflict that caused tremendous damage.

According to Palestinian figures, nearly 2,200 Palestinians were killed roughly three quarters of them civilians and including more than 500 children and 11,000 were wounded. The war also left some 100,000 homeless. Seventy-two people were killed on the Israeli side, including six civilians.

Ahead of a U.N. investigation, the Israeli military has released reams of evidence, including satellite photos and aerial footage, to support its claims that it acted responsibly and attempted to minimize Palestinian casualties. It asserts that Hamas made no effort to disguise its attempt to maximize Israeli civilian casualties.

Throughout the war, the Israeli air force compiled dozens of video clips showing alleged wrongdoing by Hamas, an Islamic militant group sworn to Israel's destruction. □



In this July 16, 2014 file photo, smoke trails behind missiles fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip, as seen from the Israel-Gaza border. Two weeks after the end of the Gaza war, there is growing evidence that Hamas militants used residential areas as cover for launching rockets at Israel, at least at times. But Hamas says that a heavy-handed Israeli response is to blame for the deaths of hundreds of Palestinian civilians. (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

of the Gaza war, there is growing evidence that Hamas militants used residential areas as cover for launching rockets at Isra-

urban landscape, took safeguards to keep people away from the fighting, and that a heavy-handed Israeli response is to blame

urban chain that Israel has turned into a war zone," said Ghazi Hamad, a senior Hamas official in Gaza. Increasingly, the discussion

## Pakistan: Militants linked to attack on Malala caught

**MUNIR AHMED**  
**Associated Press**  
**ISLAMABAD (AP)** — Pakistan's army said Friday that it has arrested 10 militants suspected of involvement in the 2012 attack on teenage activist Malala Yousafzai, who won world acclaim after she was shot in the head by the Taliban for advocating gender equality and education for women. Army spokesman Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa said the detained men attacked Yousafzai, then 15, on orders from Mullah Fazlullah, the head of the Pakistani Taliban. The army is currently waging a major offensive against the extremist group in North Waziristan, a tribal region along the border with Afghanistan that has long been a militant stronghold. "The entire gang involved

in the murder attempt... has been busted," Bajwa said, adding that the "terrorists" were part of Tehrik-e-Taliban, an umbrella group encompassing militant organizations across the tribal areas.

Malala, a precocious teenage activist who had called for expanding girls' education in deeply conservative areas of Pakistan, was shot in the head in October 2012 while returning from school. Two other girls were also wounded in the attack.

Malala was initially treated in Pakistan, but was later flown to a hospital in Britain, where she now lives with her family.

"This is good news for our family and most importantly, for the people of Pakistan and the civilized world. This first step of apprehending Malala's attackers signifies the begin-

ning of real hope for the hundreds of thousands of people whose lives have been affected by terrorism," Malala's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, said in a statement.

Malala is from the northwestern Swat Valley, once home to Fazlullah, who was elevated to his current leadership position after his predecessor, Hakimullah Mehsud, was killed in a U.S. drone strike in North Waziristan.

Fazlullah has been on the run since 2009, when Pakistan launched a major offensive in the Swat Valley to eliminate militants who were trying to overthrow the government and impose a harsh version of Islamic law. Islamic extremists believe women should largely confine themselves to the home, and view girls' education as a sinister Western import. □



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# Protestant firebrand Rev. Ian Paisley dies at 88

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

**DUBLIN (AP)** — The Rev. Ian Paisley, the Protestant firebrand who devoted his life to thwarting compromise with Catholics in Northern Ireland only to become a pivotal peacemaker in his twilight years, died Friday in Belfast. He was 88.

Paisley's blistering oratory in sermons and street protests was blamed for fueling four decades of bloodshed that claimed 3,700 lives.

Yet at the zenith of his peace-wrecking powers, Paisley in 2007 stunned the world by delivering the province's first stable unity government between its British Protestant majority and Irish Catholic minority. "Dr. No" finally said yes — and his powerful U-turn cemented a peace process that he had done so much to frustrate.

"Ian was a man of deep convictions. The convictions never changed. But his appreciation of the possibilities of peace, gradually and with much soul-searching, did," said former British Prime Minister

Tony Blair.

Paisley founded his own church and party to promote his strident views. His Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster labeled the pope as the antichrist and lambasted mainstream Prot-

estants.

Backed by the menace of Protestant mobs, Paisley confronted 1960s Catholic civil rights marches. He sought the military destruction of the Irish Republican Army and, a genera-

tionists. port. Over and over, he torpedoed efforts at compromise and shortened the careers of moderate Protestant leaders from the rival Ulster Unionist Party. Unquestionably Northern Ireland's most popular

Fein leaders to enter talks on Northern Ireland's future. Blair welcomed Sinn Fein, and the Ulster Unionists reluctantly stayed at the table. Paisley's DUP bolted for the door.

The Good Friday pact expected Sinn Fein to receive seats in a coalition government, and the IRA to disarm fully by mid-2000. Troublingly, it didn't explicitly link those goals.

When the IRA insisted it wouldn't surrender arms, Paisley crowed his vindication as the Ulster Unionist-led government unraveled and collapsed in 2002. The Democratic Unionists won most seats in the next Northern Ireland Assembly, cementing Paisley's veto over resumed power-sharing. Paisley declared there wasn't "a snowball's chance in Hell" he'd work with Sinn Fein unless the IRA surrendered all weapons publicly. He called on Sinn Fein leaders to don "sackcloth and ashes," an Old Testament ritual demonstrating repentance.

Paisley seemed determined to humiliate his enemies, yet his unbending stance spurred the IRA-Sinn Fein movement into overdue concessions. □



In this May 8, 2007 file photo former Democratic Unionist Party leader Ian Paisley, left, and Martin McGuinness laugh during a photo call in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Paisley the fiery Protestant leader has died in Northern Ireland aged 88 his wife Eileen said Friday Sept. 12, 2014.

(AP Photo/PA, Paul Faith)

estants as ecumenical Judases. His Democratic Unionist Party insisted that Northern Ireland's union with Britain could tolerate no concessions to Irish na-

tion later, denounced the U.S.-brokered Good Friday peace accord of 1998 as a capitulation to the IRA's Sinn Fein party.

Protestants rallied behind him with such fervor that no peacemaking initiative could last without his sup-

port. politician, Paisley topped more than a dozen votes in elections to the British and European parliaments. He held seats simultaneously in London and Brussels for a quarter-century.

An IRA cease-fire in 1997 opened the door for Sinn

## Prisoners handcuffed in park in Colombia

CESAR GARCIA

Associated Press

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)**

— It was a day in the park for about 40 prisoners — handcuffed to each other, a fence and even a children's slide.

Authorities have been holding some crime suspects in a public park in western Bogota's La Granja neighborhood because they say there is no more room at a local detention center.

Prisoners suspected of crimes ranging from robbery to drug trafficking are kept at a makeshift encampment day and night, guarded by groups of six police officers who switch after eight-hour shifts.

Thursday's crop of detainees huddled under tarpaulins, slumped beside park play equipment and chat-

ted in groups, their arms linked by handcuffs.

The practice has been going on for more than two months in Colombia's capital. Human rights groups are calling it inhumane and parents are complaining they can't take their kids to the park anymore.

"We worry about safety. The children and my 9-year-old daughter can't come to the park and see this spectacle," said engineer Jaime Rojas, who lives nearby. "There are criminals who have committed all types of crime here."

Hernando Bocanegra Molina, a lawyer for two drug trafficking suspects, called it degrading treatment. Officials can't treat human beings "as if they were animals," he said.

The Attorney General's Office says the problem is a

result of overcrowding at all of Bogota's six Immediate Reaction Units, which have been set up by prosecutors to efficiently deal with people arrested as suspects in crimes. If prosecutors deem a case has merit, the prisoner is sent to a regular jail.

The detention center in La Granja has a capacity to hold 70 prisoners but the number of people detained rarely falls below 100 a day. The spillover has taken over part of the park. The director of the La Granja unit declined to comment on the situation.

"Here the problem isn't so much the food or sleeping; the problem is hygiene — where to do our necessities," said one man being held at the park Thursday, declining to give his name for safety reasons. □



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## Benefitting Casa Cuna; Diamonds International undertakes its 4th Lend-A-Hand Project



**ORANJESTAD** - As the largest jewelry retailer in the Caribbean, Diamonds International is a prominent feature in Caribbean life. The last quarter of a century has seen huge expansion from the company who has received a warm welcome in each island they have branched out to. Including Aruba where they have been part of the economy for over 16 years. Diamonds International feels it is their corporate responsibility to give back and support their islands, which is why they set-up a charity organization 'The Lend-A-Hand Projects' to do just that. Lend-A-Hand Projects is essentially a program established to help community/charity and environmental projects that need a helping hand. Diamonds International offer their greatest attribute, their workforce, to worthy

projects that need a few extra hands to get a job done.

Last Friday a team of seventeen employees from Diamonds International were proud participants in the 4th Lend-A-Hand Project in Aruba, spending their day making a difference at local orphanage Casa Cuna.

One way for Casa Cuna to generate funds is by renting their park for parties. Casa Cuna has been finding it difficult to rent this space since the facilities do not include a kitchen. In order to make this venture more successful it was necessary to free up a storage space, so that it could be converted into a kitchen. However this space currently houses the children's bikes and outdoor toys. The Lend-A-Hand crew showed their skills and ingenuity, in designing and



constructing a new bicycle garage for Casa Cuna. Now Casa Cuna is able to offer a park for parties which includes a kitchen, and so keep generating funds for the orphanage. Casa Cuna was also having a hard time organizing the toys and clothes they receive during the year because of the lack of adequate storage room. This meant that a lot of the donations were going unnoticed and un-used in huge piles. This wasn't a problem for the Lend-A-Hand team who re-painted the room, installed shelves and categorized all the items

thus implementing easy access. Now Casa Cuna has an overview of what they have and are able to make use of it more effectively.

In addition to these two main projects the team also re-painted the children's tables and chairs in bright new colors, in addition to the children's shoe cabinet and the hallways outside the dorm rooms. For the Lend A Hand team, this was one of their proudest and most fulfilling days working on a project. It was great to see the assistance and donations in abundance from others

businesses and private donors on the island, and an honor to meet some of the charming little characters who call Casa Cuna home.

The management team of Diamonds International would like to give a special thank you one more time to the Lend-A-Hand team for volunteering and taking this project so seriously, working with passion, dedication and a beautiful team spirit to get a fantastic job done. And it is very important to express gratitude to Casa Cuna for opening their doors and giving Diamonds International the opportunity to make a contribution to their organization and help the Lend-A-Hand projects keep making an ongoing difference in Aruba.

Diamonds International will continue with more projects, if you have a project that could benefit from the Lend-A-Hand team contact [aruba@shopdi.com](mailto:aruba@shopdi.com), or call 588-0443. Search for Diamonds International Aruba on Facebook to follow their future projects. □





# Maike van Paridon is Caribbean Queen for September

**PALM BEACH** - Each month Caribbean Queen at Palm Beach Plaza Mall honors one local female artist who lives and creates here. The Caribbean Queen program was launched when the store opened in late 2011, and has been running successfully ever since. For the month of September 2014, local artist Maike van Paridon is the boutique's celebrated Caribbean Queen, showcasing her collection titled U Shell & Wood Sea in the store.



Maike van Paridon, who makes handcrafted decorations from Aruba, was born in the Netherlands, yet she has been living here for more than twelve

years. She started creating decorations made of shells and driftwood about ten years ago. Maike reports that she grew into a "handy girl" at an early age, having watched her father tinker around the family home. That inherited creativity and resourcefulness was fueled even further by Maike's admiration for shells and her love of the Aruban coastline with all its sun-bleached driftwood and other treasures. She started creating shell photo frames & shell-

framed mirrors as well as several driftwood decorations for local restaurants. Based on the positive reactions to her craftsmanship and the originality of her products, as displayed at the restaurants and at local flea markets where she offered her handmade products for sale, Maike's inspiration extended to also include decorative lamps, Christmas trees, whimsical ornaments, and much more.

Maike loves to personalize her creations by adding certain poetic texts, names, or lyrics, which she prints on the driftwood items of her customers' choice!

Caribbean Queen boutique earmarks a percentage of all sales for its Tikkun Olam (Repair of the World) program. The collected funds are given quarterly to not-for-profit local organizations in an ongoing ef-



fort to do good and serve the community. All the foundations served with donations from Caribbean Queen are dedicated to the promotion of art on the island and artisan education.

Enjoy these unique handcrafted Aruban art pieces by Maike van Paridon throughout the month of September.



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# Divi Vacation Ownership Sales Excellence Awards for Q2 2014



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Phoenix: Malvina Reyes.

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Phoenix: David Brown.

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2nd Quarter 2014: Eelko  
Smedema.

Marketing IPC of the 2nd  
Quarter 2014: Michelle  
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2nd Quarter 2014: Carissa  
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## Carlos and Josefina Hamoi Honored at the Marriott Resort

**PALM BEACH** - Recently, Carlos & Josefina Hamoi from Sao Paolo, Brazil were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill after returning to Aruba for more than 30 consecutive years. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more years consecutive. Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Marriott Re-

sort. Josefina commented that she will never change her vacation island for any other island. Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island," the great weather and Friendly Aruban Hospitality, the white sand beaches and the local food. They always stay at the Marriott and return 3-to-4 times a year. On the pictures Mr. Croes from ATA together with Carlos and Josefina and several Marriott Representatives. □







Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, and Marcos Maidana pose during a weigh-in Friday, Sept. 12, 2014, in Las Vegas. The two are scheduled to fight in a welterweight title bout Saturday in Las Vegas.

Associated Press  
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## Attorney: Adrian Peterson indicted on child abuse

**DAVE CAMPBELL**  
AP Sports Writer

Star Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson has been indicted in Texas on a charge of child abuse after using a branch to spank his son, and was swiftly benched by the team on Friday for this weekend's game against New England.

Peterson's attorney, Rusty Hardin, said that the charge in Montgomery County accuses Peterson of using a branch, or

wooden rod, to spank one of his sons, whose age was not disclosed. Hardin said Peterson has cooperated with authorities and didn't mean any harm.

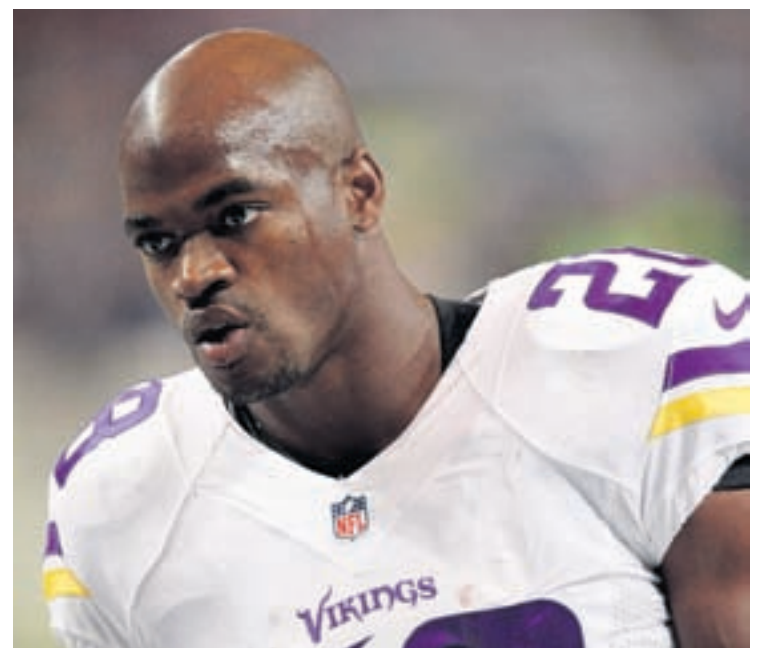
"Adrian is a loving father who used his judgment as a parent to discipline his son. He used the same kind of discipline with his child that he experienced as a child growing up in east Texas," Hardin said.

"Adrian has never hidden from what happened. He has cooperated fully with

authorities and voluntarily testified before the grand jury for several hours.

Adrian will address the charges with the same respect and responsiveness he has brought to this inquiry from its beginning. It is important to remember that Adrian never intended to harm his son and deeply regrets the unintentional injury."

Continued on page 22



In this Sept. 7, 2014, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson warms up for an NFL football game against the St. Louis Rams in St. Louis.

Associated Press





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## Horschel takes 2-shot lead in Tour Championship

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Billy Horschel showed why he might be the hottest player in golf at the moment with another 4-under 66 on Friday in the Tour Championship. It was his 10th straight round in the 60s. He already has a victory and a runner-up finish in the FedEx Cup playoffs.

And now he gets to take on the best player in golf.

Rory McIlroy rode three big putts and one bizarre break — a tee shot landed in a spectator's pocket — on his way to a 65 that left him two shots behind and put him in the final group at East Lake going into the homestretch of the FedEx Cup.

At stake for both of them — along with Chris Kirk — is a shot at the \$10 million bonus.

"I'm a guy that when I feel good about my game, I've got some confidence that I'm going to figure out some way to play well and post a number," Horschel said.

That he has done.

Horschel is 35 under par in his last 10 rounds. He was runner-up at the Deutsche Bank Championship two weeks ago, when he squandered a shot to at least get into a playoff by chunking a 6-iron into a hazard. And he followed that with a victory in the BMW Championship at Cherry Hills.

And now he has a pair of 66s, putting him at 8-under 132 at East Lake.

McIlroy made his only bogey with a buried lie at the face of a bunker on No. 4, causing him to blast out sideways. He bounced back with birdies, and poured it on at the end of his round with a 12-foot par save, a 20-foot birdie and a 25-foot birdie.

And then there was his par on the 14th, which looked ordinary only on paper. His tee shot drifted right into the pine trees, clattered around and dropped straight down. No one knew where it went

until a fan realized it had fallen into the front pocket of his shorts.

PGA Tour rules official Robby Ware made sure the fan had not moved, and McIlroy was given a free drop under Rule 19-1-a.

Retrieving the ball? McIlroy wasn't going there.

"I know how sweaty my pockets are. I'm not going into anyone else's," McIlroy said. "I need to stop hitting it off line. Things happen there."

McIlroy was joined by Jason Day, who made bogey on his last hole for a 67; and Kirk, who made two bogeys on the back nine that offset a run of four straight birdies around the turn for a 68.

Kirk, Horschel and McIlroy are among the top five seeds in the FedEx Cup, meaning a victory would guarantee the \$10 million bonus.

McIlroy seized the No. 1 ranking by winning the British Open, a World Golf Championship and the PGA Championship in successive starts. He was the top seed going into the FedEx Cup, though because the points are reset for East Lake, the 25-year-old from Northern Ireland always knew it would come down to the Tour Championship.

As much as he wants to end a great year on a high note, McIlroy appears to be playing with no concerns.

"Before coming into these FedEx Cup playoffs ... it was going to be a great season, anyway," he said.

"I wanted to cap it off in style, and I've given myself a chance to do that over the next two days. I'm going into this week with nothing to lose. I'm the one that's got the two majors this year. I'm the one that's had the great season. Those are the guys that are trying to cap off a great season for themselves.

"No matter what happens over the weekend, it's going to be OK," he said. "But I still want to win this thing."

McIlroy and Horschel first mixed it up seven years ago when they were amateurs at the Walker Cup.



Billy Horschel hits from the tee on the 14th hole during the second round of play in the Tour Championship golf tournament Friday, Sept. 12, 2014, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Horschel beat him in singles on the 18th hole, and the next morning teamed with Rickie Fowler in a foursomes win over McIlroy and Jonny Caldwell. Horschel was shouting and pumping fists, as he always does, and it rubbed McIlroy the wrong way. In the final singles session, McIlroy beat him 4 and 2. That was a long time ago. Neither harbors a grudge.

McIlroy has gone on to win four majors at age 25 — only Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Bobby Jones have done that — while Horschel picked up his second career win last week. They last played together

er as pros at the Honda Classic this year, where McIlroy had rounds of 66-63 and Horschel missed the cut. "He's a good buddy," Horschel said. "If I happen to come out on top and we're battling out these next two rounds, that means a lot. The guy won three straight events in a row, and two of them happened to be majors. I think that's pretty impressive. He's at that stage where when you're able to go toe to toe with one of the best players and the No. 1 ranked player in the world and you're able to come out on top, that gives me a lot of confidence." □





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## Players' union reps approve HGH testing for '14

**BARRY WILNER**

**AP Pro Football Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Human Growth Hormone (HGH) testing is coming to the NFL this season. HGH testing was originally agreed upon in 2011, but the players union had balked at the science in the testing and the appeals process for positive tests.

They also approved a league proposal to significantly increase the

threshold for positive marijuana tests. Some players have complained that the NFL threshold of 15 nanograms per milliliter is so low that anyone within the vicinity of people smoking marijuana could test positive. The threshold has been increased to 35 ng/ml.

Overall changes are retroactive for players suspended under previous policies, as well as

for those in the appeal process. Those players, presumably including Browns receiver Josh Gordon (suspended for the season) and Broncos receiver Wes Welker (four games), are subject to standards of the new policies. Their suspensions could be reduced — no immediate announcements were made regarding those suspensions.

Welker was suspended

for amphetamine use in the offseason, but punishment for that is being switched from the performance enhancers policy to the substance abuse program — except for in-season violations.

A two-game suspension will be issued for a player convicted of driving under the influence. But an NFL proposal to immediately suspend a player, owner, coach, team

executive or league employee for a DUI arrest was rejected by the union.

"This is an historic moment for our players and our league," NFLPA President Eric Winston said. "We have collectively bargained drug policies that will keep the game clean and safe, but also provide our players with an unprecedented level of fairness and transparency." □



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**NFL Roundup**

# Ravens shake off Rice exit to beat Steelers

**DAVID GINSBURG**

**AP Sports Writer**

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — Baltimore's dismissal of running back Ray Rice in the days leading up to the game sparked a response from his Ravens teammates on Thursday as they comfortably beat Pittsburgh 26-6.

Rice was reaching the end of a two-game suspension for domestic violence when a video of him striking his then-fiancee surfaced Monday. By the end of the day, the three-time Pro Bowler had been cut by Baltimore and suspended indefinitely by the NFL.

"We had a tough family situation this week," coach John Harbaugh said. "Our guys handled it tremendously — with class, with character. They responded."

Coming off a season-opening loss to Cincinnati, the Ravens (1-1) held Pittsburgh to two field goals and forced three turnovers.

"We wanted to kind of give that to Ray," rookie linebacker C.J. Mosley said. "We all wish the best for him. Even though he messed up, every man got to go through their

mistakes to get better. We wish him the best, but as a team we've just got to keep moving forward."

Bernard Pierce took over for Rice at running back, gaining 96 yards on 22 carries as part of a ground game that finished with 157 yards. Quarterback Flacco went 21 for 29 for 166 yards and two touchdown passes to tight end Owen Daniels, and Justin Tucker kicked four field goals.

Asked if he was curious how the team would fare after the tumultuous week, Baltimore defensive lineman Chris Canty shouted, "We weren't curious at all. We knew how this was going to go. This was going to go one way, our way, tonight. No question about it."

Pittsburgh (1-1) finished with only 22 fewer yards than Baltimore, but the turnovers made the difference. One Steelers miscue halted their opening drive, another set up a fourth-quarter field goal by Tucker, and an interception thrown by Ben Roethlisberger with 1:51 remaining ended any hope.

"A lot of the self-inflicted wounds are going to prevent you from be-



**Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco (5) is just short of a touchdown as he is hit by Pittsburgh Steelers defensive end Cameron Heyward (97) and other defenders during the second half of an NFL football game Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014, in Baltimore. The Ravens won 26-6.**

**Associated Press**

ing in a football game like that," coach Mike Tomlin said. "We turned the ball over too often (and) were highly penalized. Those two things are a lethal combination."

It was only the second time in the last 11 regular-season meetings be-

tween the teams that the outcome was decided by more than three points.

Roethlisberger completed 22 of 37 passes for 217 yards. It was the first time since 2006 that Baltimore held Pittsburgh without a touchdown. □

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# Floyd Mayweather Jr. hoping a bad week gets better

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — It didn't start out as the best of weeks for Floyd Mayweather Jr.

His former fiancée had just served him with papers in a lawsuit that alleges Mayweather is both a domestic abuser and an insensitive lout. Rapper 50 Cent was openly mocking him online for not being able to read simple sentences, offering Mayweather \$750,000 to read a page from a Harry Potter book.

And that was before he even opened his mouth up about disgraced NFL player Ray Rice. Apologies aren't usually offered during fight week, but Mayweather was forced to issue one after seeming to express sympathy to Rice for punching his then-girlfriend in a casino elevator. The issue is a delicate one for Mayweather, who served two months in jail in 2012 for a plea to reduced charges in an assault against his former girlfriend in front of their children.

He questioned why anyone was even asking him about it, though Mayweather has never been shy about expressing his opinions on everything from the state of rap music to his relationship with Donald Sterling.

"My name is always brought up with a situation," Mayweather said. "I apologize.



Marcos Maidana, left, poses on the scale during a weigh in Friday, Sept. 12, 2014; and Floyd Mayweather Jr., right, poses on the scale during a weigh in Friday, Sept. 12, 2014, in Las Vegas.



Associated Press

But I don't worry about it. To me, it's like this — if this is boxing, you should be asking me about me and Maidana. You shouldn't be asking me about football. I'm not even an NFL player. I'm a boxer."

Mayweather's profession will be on display on Saturday, and he can only hope his week ends up being better after his second fight in just four months with Marcos Maidana. Odds are it will, if he can finish off the Argentine who gave him a bad time in May, and add another \$30 million or so to his already bulging bank accounts.

Distractions aside, these should be good times for the 37-year-old boxer, who will go after win No. 47 in a rematch with Maidana that will cost American viewers \$74.95 to air into their homes.

But there were cracks in the facade even before Shantel Jackson filed her civil lawsuit, and before Mayweather got caught in controversies over his reading ability and domestic abuse.

He was cut and temporarily blinded in the fourth round of his first fight with Maidana, which was supposed to be an easy payday following his megafight with Canelo Alvarez. When it was over, Mayweather had a majority decision but his face was bruised and bloodied as if he had been in the kind of ring war he has taken pains to avoid during his 18-year pro career.

Worse yet, the fight reportedly sold poorly, threatening Mayweather's reputation as the pay-per-view king. The Showtime network has refused to release figures, but most in-

dustry estimates are that it did less than 1 million buys, prompting Showtime to experiment this time around to increase sales by moving the fight forward an hour. If Mayweather is worried about any of it, he doesn't show it. He was, after all, the highest paid athlete in the world in the last year, raking in \$72 million in two fights. As proof, he made sure to post the checks online in response to 50 Cent taunting him about his reading. But even if the first fight with Maidana was an aberration and Mayweather's skills aren't slipping, he clearly has the finish line of his career in focus. Mayweather said this week he will finish out his contract with Showtime by fighting two more times next year before hanging the gloves up for good.

Most in boxing, though, don't believe he will pass up a chance to get to 50-0 and break the mark held by the late Rocky Marciano. Mayweather himself said he changes his mind about his career depending on how he feels that day.

"I contradict myself all the time," he said.

Mayweather, who is a 6-1 favorite, said he thought he won nine of the 12 rounds in the first fight, despite one judge scoring it even. He complained about Maidana's rough tactics, but said he rose to the challenge by dominating the last half.

"I know how to make adjustments instantly — it's second nature," Mayweather said. "I'm faster this camp, a lot stronger. We'll see what he brings to the table." □

## Hansen wins 19th stage, Contador leads Vuelta

**CANGAS DO MORRAZO, Spain (AP)** — Australian cyclist Adam Hansen won the hilly 19th stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Friday,

while Alberto Contador maintained the red leader's jersey with two days to go.

Hansen attacked on a short uphill stretch with five kilometers (three miles) left on the 180.5-kilometer (112-mile) ride from Salvaterra do Mino to Cangas do Morrazo.

The peloton didn't react in time to reel him in, giving the Lotto Belisol rider the chance to zip up his maillot and pump both fists in the air before he crossed the finish line.

"It was a surprise," Hansen said. "I saw that the climb had eliminated the sprinters and I wanted to do something at the end." Contador maintained his lead of 1 minute, 19 seconds over Chris Froome as the five-time grand tour winner closes in on a possible sixth major title.

The penultimate stage is a demanding mountainous route of 185.7 kilometers (115.3 miles) starting in Santo Estevo de Ribas de Sil and finishing at the special-category summit at Puerto de Ancares. Froome shaved some time off Contador's lead on the previous mountainous stage.

"We have a hard stage ahead of us," Contador said. "And we are facing a team with a great climber in Froome. So I will see how my legs respond."

Earlier on Friday, the peloton swallowed up three escapees at the foot of the stage's second category-two climbs.

Sky's Dario Cataldo crashed as the peloton accelerated down from the category-two Alto Monte Faro. After lying prone on his back on the side of the road, he was able to recover and eventually finish the stage.

Contador said he was



Spain's Alberto Contador, the new leader of Spain Vuelta Cycling, arrives on the podium as the overall leader after winning the 36.7 kilometers (22-mile) time trial, Real Monasterio Santa Maria de Varuela-Borja, the 10th stage of the Spanish Vuelta cycling race, in Borja, Spain, Tuesday Sept. 2, 2014.

Associated Press

behind Cataldo when he crashed and almost went down with him.

"It was complicated. I don't know how I managed to avoid going down," Contador said.

"During the last kilometer I fell back to stay clear in case anyone else fell."

The 21-stage race finishes with an individual time trial in Santiago de Compostela on Sunday. □



## NFL Preview

# Vikings took Patterson with Patriots' draft pick

### The Associated Press

There's not much the New England Patriots have to regret over the last decade-plus. They are the NFL's most successful franchise in that time.

Even if there is a legitimate second guess or two, well, they'd hardly admit to one. Playing the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday, though, at least provides a scenario to ponder.

No, the Patriots didn't make a mistake by trading backup quarterback Matt Cassel, who will start on Sunday for the Vikings against good friend and former mentor Tom Brady for the first time. Brady has fared just fine since Cassel was dealt to Kansas City in 2009.

The player the Patriots, and a lot of teams in the league for that matter, could use is Cordarrelle Patterson. During last year's draft, the Patriots accepted four low picks to give up their first-round pick to the Vikings, who were enamored of the skills of the wide receiver and kickoff returner.

"We made the decision based on what we felt was best for our team," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said this week.

Patriots wide receivers remain a developing group without a true star, still try-



Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Cordarrelle Patterson, right, slips past St. Louis Rams cornerback E.J. Gaines, left, on his way to a 67-yard touchdown run during the third quarter of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

ing to establish the kind of dynamically versatile player the Vikings are grooming Patterson into. He turned a toss sweep into a 67-yard touchdown last week in the opener at St. Louis, a 34-6 victory, and has scored in six straight games.

Patterson said this week he uses the Patriots' decision to pass on him as a little extra motivation.

"It's always good to have that chip on your shoulder, just to go out there and just try to execute (against)

the teams that didn't even pick you when they said they wanted you," Patterson said.

The Patriots lost to the Miami Dolphins 33-20 last week, and have not started a season 0-2 since 2001. "We're a long ways from the team we're going to be," Brady said. "We hate losing ... it's a terrible feeling around here. It's a quality of life issue we all face when we lose, and hopefully it motivates us to go out there and ... try to beat

a very good team."

Two other division favorites, the Green Bay Packers and Indianapolis Colts, also go into Week 2 off losses, but also are far from panicking. The Packers have had plenty of time to prepare for the New York Jets, but also lots of time — since Sept. 4 — to stew about how poorly they performed at Seattle. Now, they get an opponent whose defense can play tricks on anyone.

Green Bay faces another tough running game led

by Chris Ivory and Chris Johnson after yielding 207 yards on the ground to the Seahawks. A shootout is expected in Indianapolis on Monday when the Colts host the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Eagles' fast-paced offense overcame early injuries on the offensive line to rally from 17-0 down to beat Jacksonville 34-17. LeSean McCoy and Darren Sproles combined for 145 yards rushing, and face a Colts defense that has traditionally struggled to stop the run.

The Colts' best trait is their resilience. They don't worry when they get behind, don't flinch at the sight of turnovers, and don't look back when injuries hit. Denver led them 24-0 last week but Andrew Luck got Indianapolis within a touchdown of forcing overtime and into position for a potential tying score in the closing minutes before the drive stalled. "I saw the stat, (Luck) has the most fourth-quarter comebacks in the first two years in the league of any quarterback," Eagles coach Chip Kelly said. "There's a confidence in that team. Chuck's (Pagano) done such a good job of providing and creating an environment for those guys that they feel like they're in every game."

Also on Sunday, it's Chicago at San Francisco, Seattle at San Diego, Detroit at Carolina, Kansas City at Denver, New Orleans at Cleveland, Atlanta at Cincinnati, Miami at Buffalo, Dallas at Tennessee, Arizona at the New York Giants, Jacksonville at Washington, St. Louis at Tampa Bay, and Houston at Oakland.

The week's action began in Baltimore, where the Ravens pushed aside the turmoil of Ray Rice being released — and suspended indefinitely by the team — with a 26-6 rout of the archrival Pittsburgh Steelers.

## Adrian

Continued on page 17

A warrant has been issued for Peterson's arrest, and he will have to turn himself in. There is no timeline for when he will appear in Texas, his attorney said.

The allegations came during a week in which the NFL has been under scrutiny for the way it handled a domestic violence case involving former Baltimore running back Ray Rice and his then-fiancee. An independent investigation headed by former FBI director Robert Mueller has been convened to look

into the handling of the Rice situation. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell initially suspended Rice for just two games. After a longer version of security video surfaced on Monday showing Rice punching the woman — who became his wife — in the face, the Ravens released Rice and the league suspended him indefinitely.

Last season, not long after finding out that he had a 2-year-old son living in South Dakota, Peterson rushed to the hospital after the boy was brutally beaten by his mother's



Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson (28) runs for a 5-yard gain as St. Louis Rams defensive end Chris Long, right, defends during the first quarter of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

boyfriend. The boy died, and a 28-year-old man is scheduled to go on trial

next month on second-degree murder charges in the case.



# Apple's smartwatch: Timely idea or clocked out?

**MAE ANDERSON**

**AP Technology Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Apple is a habitual party crasher, but can the company's history of arriving late and making a big splash in various gadget categories continue with the Apple Watch? The technology company was a late entrant into many of its most prominent product categories: the iPod wasn't the first digital music player and the iPad wasn't the first tablet. But in most cases, the innovation the company infused into its devices ignited previously dormant markets — and Apple products became “must haves.”

Smartwatches have been around for a few years, but makers such as Samsung and Sony have failed to make them a runaway hit.

Apple's stated entry into the smartwatch arena this week with a gadget that won't go on sale until early 2015 raises questions: Can the company work its magic as it has in the past and convince people that they really need a smartwatch — or will this time be different?

Experts say Apple is likely to stimulate interest in smartwatches, but they contend that the company must overcome a few hitches before its device can succeed.

Wearable devices is a small but growing area that technology companies are hoping to capitalize on as the smartphone and tablet usage grows. Citi Investment Research estimates the market for smartwatches will be \$1.4 billion to \$1.8 billion this year and could grow to \$10 billion by 2018.

But no company has cracked the formula for a mass-market success. The entire “wearables” category includes sport fitness bands, watches and other apparel — everything from Fitbit's \$99 Flex fitness tracker and Nike's \$99 Fuelband fitness monitors to Samsung's \$199 Galaxy Gear smart watch. Experts say the Apple Watch's real test will come when developers begin to develop apps for the gadget, which is Apple's first brand-new product introduction in four years.

“What separates Apple from the others is partially the design itself — it's a lot more elegant than other offerings — as well as the Apple ecosystem and (soft-

ware) developer opportunity,” said Susquehanna Research analyst Chris Caso.

Forrester analyst James McQuivey said some Apple Watch features, like the controller knob on the side and the emphasis on different watch sizes and style options for watch bands and clasps, could help the watch stand out.

“Apple has unique strengths to make something elegant and attractive,” McQuivey said. He compared the Apple Watch to Apple's earlier innovations like

Michael Walkley gives an even rosier outlook, forecasting 14 million will sell during fiscal 2015 and 25 million in fiscal 2016.

“We believe our estimates could prove conservative, as we were impressed with the design, user interface, and features included in Apple watches,” he said in a client note. “We believe the fitness and health features are the most compelling in terms of driving sales of the new product category for Apple and could also drive stronger demand than our initial estimates.”

The Apple Watch faces a few other problems: It's unclear how long the battery lasts and the watch won't ship until early 2015, disappointing those who were hoping to get or give one as a holiday gift. It also has to be tethered to an iPhone via Bluetooth for some functions, including GPS.

“The lack of GPS or Wi-Fi natively on the device will require an iPhone to be nearby for most tasks, which both limits some near-term use cases,” said Raymond James analyst Tavis Mc-



The new Apple Watch is shown by a model on a treadmill during a new product release on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

the iPod and its trademark white earbuds.

“They made it something you wanted to be seen carrying,” he said. “You have (an iPod) just to make people see that you have it. Even people who didn't buy it knew what it was.”

McQuivey predicts a successful launch but not quite as big a launch as Apple's iPad. He believes the company will ship 10 million units by the end of 2016.

“You only need 10 million to hit that tipping point, then millions of more people will want one suddenly,” he said.

By comparison, research firm IDC forecasts that about 4 million smartwatches will be sold this year, more than double the 1.7 million sold in 2013. The top brands are Samsung and Pebble. Canaccord Genuity analyst

Even so, there are a few sticking points that could keep the device from being a success. The first is its price tag, which starts at \$349. Several analysts said that's more than they were expecting. “There may be consumer concern about the price,” said eMarketer senior analyst Cathy Boyle. “It's going to catch a lot of people's attention, but adoption is going to be gradual.”

A slow build won't necessarily doom the product. iPhone sales started slow in the device's first year on the market. Apple sold just 5.4 million iPhones between mid-2007 and the summer of 2008. More than 550 million have been sold as of June. With the iPad, Apple sold 19.5 million tablets in the first year on the market. More than 225 million iPads have been sold.

Court. “But it provides ample fodder for upgrade opportunities in the future.”

The long lead time before the product ships could mean the device will be more functional once it's released, since app developers have more time to create apps specifically for the watch. And Apple is loading the device with fitness apps and an Apple Pay digital wallet service that might appeal to some consumers who are on the fence.

“The intention (of showing the watch months before it ships) is to show the developer community they have an elegant industrial design, but to make it really useable and exciting you have to have apps for it,” said Susquehanna Research analyst Caso. “Apple is playing the long game here for sure.” □



# Stocks fall on interest rate worries

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Market Writers**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The prospect of rising interest rates sent the stock market to its first weekly loss since early August.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 11.91 points, or 0.6 percent, to end at 1,985.54 on Friday. The index was down 1.1 percent for the week.

Declines were led by util-

Treasury note has now climbed for seven straight days.

"As the economic data continues to move along this positive trajectory, interest rates are going to rise," said Quincy Krosby, a market strategist at Prudential Financial. "The market is going to have to accept that."

Other stock indexes fell Friday. The Dow Jones in-

On Friday, high dividend payers, like utilities and telecoms stocks, sold off. Real estate investment trusts also slumped.

Utility stocks fell 1.8 percent, the biggest drop of the 10 sectors that make up the S&P 500. Energy stocks dropped 1.5 percent and phone company stocks slumped 1.2 percent.

The price of oil fell on concerns that global demand



**Traders Daniel Kryger, left, and Christopher Morie work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The prospect of rising interest rates sent the stock market to its first weekly loss since early August. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)**

ity companies and other stocks that pay high dividends. Those stocks have been in favor this year as investors hunt for other sources of income because bond yields have been low.

Now that the yield on the ultra-safe 10-year Treasury note has shot to 2.61 percent — its highest level in two months — investors are less willing to hold riskier stocks, even those paying a rich dividend.

The recent rise in bond yields was bolstered Friday by a report showing that U.S. retail sales rose faster last month than economists forecast. That reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve may start hiking interest rates sooner than expected. The central bank has nearly finished winding down its stimulus program and policy makers start a two-day meeting on Tuesday.

The yield on the 10-year

dustrial average lost 61.49 points, or 0.4 percent, to 16,987.51. The Nasdaq composite dropped 24.21 points, or 0.5 percent, to 4,567.60.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note has risen from 2.34 percent at the start of the month and is trading at its highest level since early July.

Higher interest rates mean that companies and consumers have to pay more to borrow, leaving them with lower profits and less money to spend.

Yet investors shouldn't jump the gun on concerns that rising rates will end the stock market's five-year bull run, said Randy Frederick, a trading strategist at Charles Schwab. As long as the economy is improving, stocks can continue to move higher.

"Generally, the market goes through a correction and then the bull market continues," said Frederick.

is falling while supplies remain ample. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 52 cents to close at \$92.27 a barrel on the New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell 12 cents to close at \$97.96 in London. It was Brent's first close below \$98 since April of 2013.

Wholesale gasoline fell 0.5 cent to close at \$2.519 a gallon, heating oil fell 1.5 cents to close at \$2.741 a gallon and natural gas rose 3.4 cents to close at \$3.857 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In metals trading, gold fell \$7.50 to \$1,231 an ounce. Silver rose 1 cent to \$18.61 an ounce and copper climbed 1.4 cents to \$3.10 a pound.

In currency trading, the dollar remained firm. The euro was 0.2 percent higher at \$1.2950 while the dollar rose 0.3 percent to 107.36 against the Japanese yen. □

## Share buybacks equate to US corporate cocaine

© 2014 Economist

Financial excess is more commonly associated with banks than with blue-chip companies. While the rich world's finance industry, supposedly the brain of the economy, went berserk in the run-up to the 2007-2008 crash, other big firms behaved sensibly, avoiding too much debt, and kept their costs under control and their eyes on long-term opportunities in emerging markets. However, in the era of weak growth and low interest rates that has characterized the aftermath of that crash, there is growing evidence that the blue chips are engaged in their own kind of financial excess: a dangerous addiction to share buybacks.

During the past 12 months, American firms have bought more than \$500 billion of their own shares, close to a record amount. From Apple to Wal-Mart, the most profitable and prominent companies have big buyback schemes. I.B.M. spends twice as much on share repurchases as on research and development. Exxon has spent more than \$200 billion buying back its shares, enough to buy its archrival B.P.

The phenomenon is less extreme in other countries, but is becoming popular even in conservative corporate cultures. Led by firms such as Toyota and Mitsubishi, Japanese companies are buying back record amounts of their own shares.

Buybacks are not necessarily a bad idea. When firms buy their own stock in the open market, they return surplus cash to their shareholders in much the same way as if they were paying out dividends. If firms can't find opportunities for profitable investment, handing cash back to investors is the right thing to do. In many ways, therefore, the surge in buybacks is a symptom of the rich world's feeble growth prospects.

It could also be a source of trouble, though, for two main reasons. First, both short-term investors and managers have incentives that could lead them to overdo buybacks and neglect long-term investment projects. The announcement of a buyback scheme can prompt a sudden spike in share prices and a quick buck for the short-term investor. By reducing the number of shares outstanding, buyback schemes also artificially boost a firm's earnings per share. This helps explain why managers whose pay depends on reaching specific earnings-per-share targets like to buy back shares.

Second, some firms may be borrowing too much to pay for their buyback habit. If one includes their global operations as a whole, American companies are only moderately indebted: Record buybacks are being paid for out of record profits. However, the overall figures are skewed by a few cash-rich giants such as Google. In 2013 38 percent of firms paid more in buybacks than their cash flows could support, an unsustainable position. Some American multinationals with apparently healthy global balance sheets are, in fact, dangerously lopsided. They are borrowing heavily at home to pay for buybacks while keeping cash abroad to avoid America's high corporate-tax rate.

If firms are overdoing buybacks and starving themselves of investment, artificially propped-up share prices eventually will tumble. That is why investors need to pay close attention. In the long term they need to ensure that bosses' pay schemes are designed in a way that does not create a perverse incentive to repurchase stock. In the short term they must give willing firms a license to invest. There are some signs that this is beginning to happen. According to a poll by Bank of America Merrill Lynch, a record majority of fund managers now think that firms are investing too little. Only a minority want higher cash returns. □



# Alibaba to close books early; may lift IPO price

**MICHAEL J. de la MERCED**  
© 2014 New York Times

Demand for shares in the Alibaba Group, the Chinese e-commerce giant, was long expected to be strong. But the orders have come in so quickly that the company's banks expect to close their order books early.

Underwriters for Alibaba told their sales staffs Friday that they would close all orders for the initial public offering by Wednesday afternoon, people briefed on

the matter said. And the advisers hinted that they might eventually raise the price range for the stock sale, pushing it past a fund-raising goal of \$21.1 billion. The banks said that they would stop accepting orders from U.S. investors by Tuesday at 4 p.m. Asian investors have until 4 p.m. Hong Kong time to place their orders, while money managers in Europe have until the close of business in London to submit their orders.

But investors who have not met with the company's executives - either in one-on-one gatherings or in small group sessions - by their region's deadlines will have extra time to file their purchase orders.

The underwriters said that they had received orders with "no sensitivity" to the price range of \$60 to \$66 a share, suggesting that demand has been so strong that the banks might feel comfortable increasing the price range of what

was already expected to be one of the biggest initial stock sales of all time.

The development was reported earlier by Bloomberg News. A spokesman for Alibaba declined to comment.

Excitement among potential investors has been evident for months but became even more readily apparent when the company kicked off its global roadshow Monday. More than 800 money managers lined up at the Wal-

dorf-Astoria in Manhattan for a lunchtime presentation hosted by Alibaba's executive chairman and co-founder, Jack Ma, with some individuals being turned away for lack of space. Other meetings across the United States have been similarly packed. A gathering with Fidelity portfolio managers and executives in Boston on Tuesday, for example, brought in more than 100 attendees, according to people at the event. □

# US business stockpiles up 0.4 percent in July

**M. CRUTSINGER**  
AP Economics Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Stockpiles held by U.S. businesses rose by a moderate

percent in July, the Commerce Department reported Friday. That was the same increase as in June.

percent in June.

The July increase in stockpiles was in line with economists' expectations. They say the solid gains in busi-

ness sales will give businesses confidence to boost their restocking efforts to meet the rising demand.

Inventory increases spur more orders to factories and stronger economic activity. The latest increase in inventories pushed total business stockpiles to \$1.75 trillion, up 5.9 percent from a year ago.

The gain reflected a 1 percent rise in inventories held by retailers, the biggest gain in this sector since last October. Auto dealers boosted their stockpiles by 2.3 percent, responding to the strong sales gains they have seen this year.

Stockpiles held by wholesalers were up a much smaller 0.1 percent and inventories at the manufacturing level also rose 0.1 percent.

Inventory growth is viewed as a good barometer of business sentiment. When companies add goods to their stockpiles, it shows optimism about future demand. If they slow inventory rebuilding, it can suggest that businesses expect demand to slacken and are trying to

avoid getting stuck with unwanted goods.

A separate report Friday showed that retail sales increased a solid 0.6 percent in August with about half of that increase coming from strong gains in auto purchases.

In the April-June quarter, an acceleration in inventory building contributed one-third of the 4.2 percent growth rate turned in during the spring quarter. During the first three months of the year, a slowdown in stockpiling had subtracted 1.2 percentage points from growth. That was a major factor sending the economy into reverse during the first quarter when the overall economy contracted at an annual rate of 2.1 percent. For the rest of the year, most analysts expect that inventory building will support economic growth without the wide swings in activity seen between the first and second quarters. □



**Flexible fuel operator John Lewis sprays air on tubes that make up the fuel bundle assembly at the GE Hitachi plant in Castle Hayne, N.C. The Commerce Department reported on business inventories for July on Friday, Sept. 12, 2014. (AP Photo/The Star-News, Mike Spencer)**

amount in July while sales increased at the fastest pace in three months. Stockpiles increased 0.4

Sales increased 0.8 percent, the best showing since a similar rise in April. Sales had advanced 0.6

percent in June. The July increase in stockpiles was in line with economists' expectations. They say the solid gains in busi-

# Digital First Media exploring possible sale of firm

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Newspaper company Digital First Media said Friday that it is exploring strategic options, which could include a sale of the company or parts of it.

The privately held company is the nation's second biggest U.S. newspaper publisher by circulation. Its publications include the Los Angeles

Daily News, the San Jose Mercury News, the Denver Post and the St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press. Digital First Media serves 75 million customers monthly. The announcement comes as readers continue moving to online sources to get their news and advertisers shift more of their spending to mobile and Web-based ads. The

trends have meant that companies with newspaper properties are searching for ways to boost the value of their businesses. Some are opting to spin off or sell their print operations while retaining broadcast and digital properties. In August, Gannett Co. — owner of USA Today — announced it would make such a

move. Time Warner Inc. and News Corp have made similar maneuvers. "We believe we have many options available to us to maximize the value of our businesses for our stockholders, and the board of directors has therefore decided to assess the full range of those opportunities," Digital First Media CEO John Paton

said in a statement. Digital First Media was created in December through the merger of MediaNews Group and the former Journal Register Co. The company has 76 daily and Sunday newspapers, and 160 weekly publications. The company said there is no schedule set for the completion of its review. □



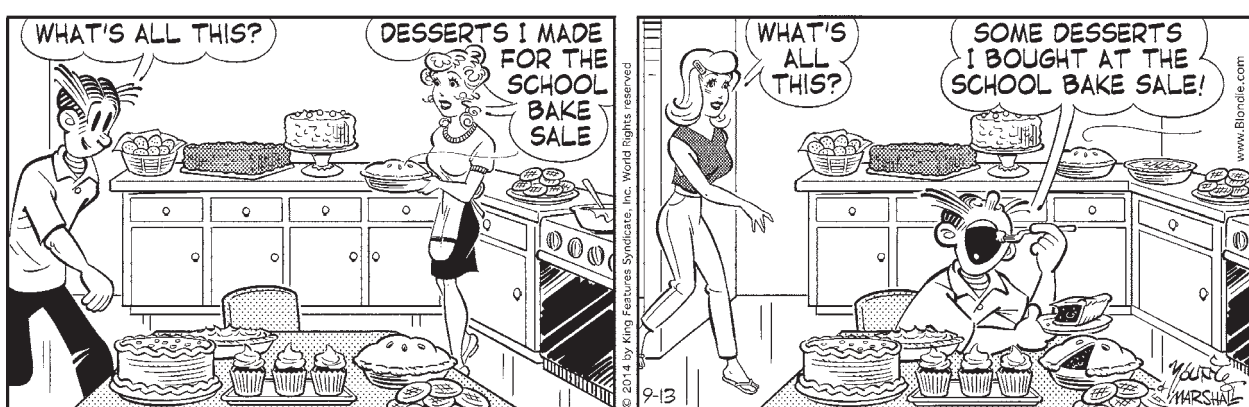
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

9				5				2
						3	8	
		2	9	1			6	
		1						
4		3		2		7		5
						8		
	1			9	5	2		
	4	8						
7				6				4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	9	4	3	8	1	2	7	6
1	6	3	7	2	5	9	4	8
7	2	8	6	9	4	3	1	5
2	8	1	9	7	3	5	6	4
4	7	5	2	1	6	8	9	3
9	3	6	5	4	8	7	2	1
6	5	2	1	3	9	4	8	7
3	4	7	8	6	2	1	5	9
8	1	9	4	5	7	6	3	2

ACROSS

- 1 "Jeremiah — bullfrog..."
- 5 Grid of rails under a train
- 10 Informal talk
- 14 Pitcher's joys
- 15 Keller or Hunt
- 16 Acting part
- 17 Make booties
- 18 In flames
- 19 Baseball officials, briefly
- 20 Overexerts
- 22 Spookiest
- 24 Annoy
- 25 Desert refuge
- 26 Angry look
- 29 Buddy
- 30 Goes ahead of the others
- 34 Donut's center
- 35 For each
- 36 Bit of corn
- 37 Hardware store chain
- 38 Childhood viral disease
- 40 Anti's vote
- 41 Thin
- 43 Big coffee cup
- 44 Healthy
- 45 Modify
- 46 Duster's cloth
- 47 Five dozen
- 48 African nation
- 50 Pea casing
- 51 Shade of red
- 54 Went back on a promise
- 58 Sheltered inlet
- 59 High-powered surgical beam
- 61 — Scotia
- 62 Leave out
- 63 — than; besides
- 64 Watched
- 65 Turner & Knight
- 66 Like neglected gardens
- 67 Fouts & Rather

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21				22		23				
			24				25							
26	27	28				29				30		31	32	33
34					35				36					
37					38				39			40		
41			42				43				44			
45						46				47				
			48		49				50					
51	52	53						54				55	56	57
58					59		60				61			
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/13/14

Friday's Puzzle Solved

4	Dancer Fred	—											
5	Express gratitude to												
6	Football officials, briefly												
7	Ms. MacGraw												
8	Oatmeal												
9	Leg joints												
10	Cabin												
11	Residence												
12	Mont Blanc's range												
13	Examination												
21	Anger												
23	Irritates												
25	Rower												
26	Nation whose capital is Accra												
27	Skin-numbing anesthetic												
28	Open-eyed												
29	Split soup												
31	Building wing												
32	Passed out cards												
33	In a crafty way												
35	Church seat												
36	Beer container												
38	Ethical												
39	Pull along with effort												
42	Rues												
44	Expanded												
46	Turn												
47	Male child												
49	Under												
50	Singer Como												
51	Glasgow man												
52	Arrive												
53	Enthusiastic												
54	Rex or Donna												
55	Spanish artist												
56	Like 2, 4 and 6												
57	Fathers												
60	That woman												

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9/13/14



# Student loan debt burdens all ages

ELIZABETH OLSON

© 2014 New York Times

Janet Lee Dupree, 72, was surprised when she received her first Social Security benefits seven years ago. About one-fifth of her monthly payment was being withheld, and she called the federal government to find out why.

Dupree, who is from Citra, Florida, discovered that the deduction from her benefits was to repay \$3,000 in loans she took out in the early 1970s to pay for her undergraduate degree.

"I didn't pay it back, and I'm not saying I shouldn't," she said. "I was an alcoholic, and later diagnosed with HIV, but I've turned my life around. I've been paying some of the loan back but that never seems to lower the amount, which is now \$15,000 because of interest."

"I don't know if I can ever pay it back."

She is among an estimated 2 million Americans ages 60 and older who are in debt from unpaid student loans, according to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Its August "Household Debt and Credit Report" said the number of aging Americans with outstanding student loans had almost tripled from about 700,000 in 2005, whether from long-ago loans for their own educations or more recent borrowing to pay for college degrees for family members.

The debt among older people is up substantially, to \$43 billion from \$8 billion in 2005, according to the report, which is based on data from Equifax, the credit reporting agency. Currently about 155,000 people, according to federal data, have money deducted from their Social Security payments to pay down their outstanding student loans.

Although older debtors account for a small fraction of student loan borrowers, who have accumulated nearly \$1 trillion in such debt, the effect of owing a constantly ballooning amount of debt but hav-

ing a fixed income can be onerous, said Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

"Those in default on their loans can see their Social Security checks garnished, leaving them with retirement income that leaves them well below the poverty line," he said at a com-

counselor for a nonprofit, she said she could barely afford the \$50 each month that she negotiated with the federal government as payment for her growing debt.

She is supporting a measure introduced by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., a committee member, that would al-



**Janet Dupree, a retiree who has had her monthly Social Security checks garnished to repay a \$3,000 student loan debt from the 1970s, at her home in Citra, Fla., Sept. 11, 2014. An estimated two million Americans age 60 and older are in debt from unpaid student loans, and garnished Social Security checks can leave them with a fixed monthly income well below the poverty line.**

(Rob C. Witzel/The New York Times)

mittee hearing this week to examine the issue.

"Some may think of student loan debt as a young person's problem," he said, "but, as it turns out, that is increasingly not the case." That is the problem that Rosemary Anderson, 57, described to the committee. Anderson, who is from Watsonville, California, has a home mortgage that is under water, as well as health and other problems, and \$64,000 in unpaid student loans.

She borrowed the money in her 30s to fund her bachelor's and master's degrees, but fell behind on her student loan payments eight years ago.

As a result of compound interest, her debt has risen to \$126,000. With her \$526 monthly payment, at an 8.25 percent rate, she estimates that she "will be 81" by the time it is paid, and will have laid out \$87,487 more than she originally borrowed.

Dupree, in a telephone interview, said she, too, needed some relief. As a part-time substance abuse

low people who borrowed money for education before July 2013 to refinance at current, lower interest rates.

A person who took out an unsubsidized loan before July of last year "is locked into an interest rate of nearly 7 percent and older loans run 8 percent to 9 percent and even higher," Warren said.

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202517

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### pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

### Women in Difficulties

### Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

### Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002



# Alien-like giant water-living dinosaur unveiled

**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
**AP Science Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Picture the fearsome movie creatures of "Jurassic Park" crossed with the shark from "Jaws." Then super-size to the biggest predator ever to roam Earth. Now add a crocodile snout as big as a person and feet like a duck's.

The result gives one some idea of a bizarre dinosaur scientists unveiled Thursday.

This patchwork of critters, a 50-foot (15-meter) predator, is the only known dinosaur to live much of its life in the water.

The beast, called *Spinosaurus aegyptiacus*, was already known to scientists from a long-ago fossil discovery, but most of those bones were destroyed in Germany during World War II. Now, 70 years later, a new skeleton found in Morocco reveals that the beast was far more aquatic than originally thought. *Spinosaurus* had a long neck, strong clawed forearms, powerful jaws and the dense bones of a penguin. It propelled itself in water with flat feet that were probably webbed, according to a study released Thursday by the journal *Science*. The beast sported a spiny sail on its back that was 7 feet (2 meters) tall when it lived 95 million years ago.

"It's like working on an extraterrestrial or an alien," study lead author Nizar Ibrahim of the University of Chicago said, while standing in front of a room-sized reconstruction of the skeleton at the National Geographic Society, which helped fund the research. "It's so different than any-

thing else around," he said.

Ibrahim described the creature as "so bizarre it's going to force dinosaur experts to rethink many things they thought they knew about dinosaurs."



**A 50-foot life-size model of a *Spinosaurus* dinosaur is displayed outside the entrance at the National Geographic Society in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014.** Associated Press

Scientists had thought that all dinosaurs stuck to the land, with occasional brief trips into the water. But the new skeleton shows clear evidence of river and lake living: hip bones like a whale's, dense bones that allowed it to dive for food, and nostrils positioned high on the skull, allowing *Spinosaurus* to mostly submerge. It could walk and would probably nest on land, but on land it moved more awkwardly than in water, said study co-author Paul Sereno of the University of Chicago. It lumbered on its two hind feet because its powerful forelegs with sharp curved claws were designed more for killing than walking, he said. Sereno called it "an evolutionary experiment going into the water."

The new find is amazing and convincing, showing

how wrong scientists have been about this dinosaur and about how diverse dinosaurs can be, said University of Maryland dinosaur expert Thomas Holtz Jr., who wasn't part of this study. It's also a creature

were destroyed in the bombing of Munich in World War II. *Spinosaurus* was lost.

But in 2008, Ibrahim was in Morocco on a quest for *Spinosaurus*. It wasn't going well. He had heard of

looked up and spotted the dealer walking by.

They went to a Moroccan dig site and found a mostly complete set of bones.

*Spinosaurus*, which grew some 9 feet (3 meters) longer than *Tyrannosaurus rex*, feasted on aquatic creatures the size of cars in an area that was history's "most dangerous place," Ibrahim said. Three giant predators nearly the size of a *T. rex* roamed on land. Even the sky had giant predators. And in the water 25-foot (8-meter) sharks, giant sawfish and six or seven types of ancient nasty crocodiles lurked.

Sereno noted that a *Spinosaurus* did fight a *T. rex* in the movie "Jurassic Park III," but it was a land battle and based on the old conception of the dinosaur. In reality, the two didn't live on the same continent or in the same time period.

In the movie, the *Spinosaurus* won. And Sereno said if the two species had fought in the water, *Spinosaurus* would have won easily. □

## Index ranks Japan Asia's most efficient innovator

**TERESA CEROJANO**  
**Associated Press**  
**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**

— A new index ranks Japan as the most efficient among Asian countries in turning the building blocks of creativity into tangible innovations that benefit their economies and people while Myanmar, Pakistan and Cambodia are least efficient.

The Asian Development Bank said Friday it developed the index with the Economist Intelligence Unit to give policymakers a tool to assess how best to foster innovation and creativity in Asian economies.

Finland and the United States were included for comparison and ranked second and 4th respectively out of the diverse group of 24 countries that span some of the richest and poorest nations in the world. South Korea was third and China was 11th ranked.

The index uses 36 indicators to measure capacity and incentives for innovation, including how many global top 500 universities a country has, the urbanization rate and spending on research and development. The number of patents filed, value added to agricultural commodities and the number of books and films produced are among eight indicators of creative production used.

ADB official Bindu N. Lohani said developing countries need to make sure investments in their economies boost efficiency and productivity to allow them to achieve higher living standards.

Singapore topped rankings for strong political institutions, protection of intellectual property and contract enforcement while Hong Kong was best in terms of creative production, reflecting a high level of ex-

port sophistication and its prolific film industry.

Innovation in service industries such as medical diagnostics, architectural design, and business accounting holds promise for Asia, according to a separate ADB report also released Friday.

It said Asia's developing economies need to boost investments in higher education and training, innovation, information and communication technology and in improving their economic institutions to allow them to jump beyond middle-income levels.

The complete rankings: Japan, Finland, South Korea, United States, Taiwan, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Australia, Laos, Singapore, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Fiji, Myanmar, Pakistan, Cambodia. □



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# Nicholas Sparks tests TV with 'Deliverance Creek'

LAURI NEFF

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Nicholas Sparks' romance-drama novels have already found a second life as film adaptations. Now the best-selling author is turning to television.

Sparks is executive producer of the TV movie "Deliverance Creek," premiering Saturday on Lifetime (8 p.m. EDT). He says television seemed a natural progression because 10 of his novels, including "The Notebook," have been or are in production for films.

"I suppose it's just sort of evolved over time," Sparks said in a recent interview. The author said television gives him a new platform "to tell stories that I probably wouldn't tell" with books.

"Deliverance Creek," starring Lauren Ambrose ("Six Feet Under"), is a departure for Sparks because it

isn't a romance and isn't set in North Carolina. And he didn't write it. The drama about a widow and mother of three who is determined to protect her family and land during the Civil War was written by Melissa Carter ("Mistresses," "The Lottery").

"We wanted to go right out the gate with something that wasn't one of my novels 'cause if you do one of my novels, then everyone thinks, 'Well, that's all it's going to be,'" Sparks said.

Instead, Sparks said he envisions his production company working on TV and film projects from a variety of sources. Nicholas Sparks Productions co-produced film adaptations of his books "Safe Haven" and "The Best of Me," which opens in theaters next month. He said the company has also acquired the rights to remake the 1971 film "Brian's Song."



In this Feb. 1, 2012 file photo writer-producer Nicholas Sparks poses in New York. Sparks is executive producer of the television movie "Deliverance Creek" that premieres on the Lifetime network Sept. 15, 2014, at 8 p.m. EDT. Associated Press

Sparks said there will be a common thread to the projects with a focus on strong, complex and con-

vincing characters and elements of love and loss because "my novels also do that."

"Keep it interesting. Make it compelling. Surprise me. That's what we're looking for," he said. □

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi



# Men only: Kathy Griffin's guide to late-night TV

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Last year, as a late-night TV shake-up ended with yet another chorus line of white male hosts, Joan Rivers decried the lack of women in any of the coveted jobs as "beyond frustrating."

Days after the death of the only woman to host a late-night network show, the status quo was reaffirmed as CBS on Monday anointed Craig Ferguson's successor: James Corden, a popular British performer, but one largely unknown to American viewers.

Kathy Griffin, who lost a close friend and mentor when Rivers died at 81, was disappointed but unsurprised by the decision. She has good reason: nearly three decades after Rivers' brief run with her talk show on Fox, the late-night network landscape remains entirely male.

"I was interested in the Ferguson spot long before it was announced because I had a feeling things might shift," said a candid Griffin. "My joke phrase is, 'I can start Monday.'"

The response of one executive to her query: "They're not considering females at

this time," she recounted. "You realize that's illegal to say in a business meeting?" was Griffin's comeback.

When she told by another industry exec that the absence of female hosts was "embarrassing" and that women who represent half

a shot.' I leave the room thinking, 'I never had a chance,'" she said.

While the rest of TV catches up to diversity, with fictional portrayals daring to imagine women as U.S. presidents and mirror the reality of an African-Amer-



In this June 22, 2014 file photo, host Kathy Griffin speaks on stage at the 41st annual Daytime Emmy Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

the population should hold half of such jobs, he had a ready answer: "Well, you have 'The Talk.'"

That show, of course, is in daytime and has five co-hosts, not one powerful female comedian owning the nighttime stage.

The effect, even for a resilient professional like Griffin, is dispiriting.

"I walk into the (meeting) room thinking, 'I'll give it

ican leader, networks simply are unwilling to roll the dice on either a female or minority in the lofty position of late-night host.

Rivers' brief tenure on the fledgling Fox network nearly 30 years ago remains a lonely emblem. The network cited low viewership for the cancellation and she blamed a business clash, but whatever happened, it was one chance

and out for her and the rest of her gender.

Imagine if Conan O'Brien's NBC experience quashed the deal for white guys.

Cable, meanwhile, has inched forward with BET's Mo'Nique and E!'s Chelsea Handler (both shows are now ended), and the upcoming Comedy Central program with black comedian and writer Larry Wilmore.

To make it in the big leagues, a performer needs the unwavering support of power brokers including producers, agents and network executives, Griffin said, pointing to "Saturday Night Live" founder-guru Lorne Michaels' grooming of Jimmy Fallon and Seth Meyers for NBC late-night jobs.

One especially damaging industry argument, made privately, is that women want to get their pre-bedtime monologue jokes from a man, while female hosts such as Ellen DeGeneres and Queen Latifah are welcome in daytime. In fact, the audience for Handler's "Chelsea Lately" was about 65 percent female, more than any other late-night show.

It's the age of audienc-

es, not their gender, that should worry networks. The cold reality is that younger viewers are doing their viewing elsewhere, including YouTube and edgier cable shows. The median age of viewers for the three 11:30 p.m. Eastern shows is just shy of 56 and steadily rising.

Maybe women can lend a hand. There clearly are contenders for the work.

Griffin, for one. She's earned two Emmy Awards (for Bravo's "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List") and this year joined the small band of female winners of a Grammy Award for best comedy album ("Calm Down Gurrl"). She's an adroit comedian and savvy enough to fit her edgy comedy into a broadcast mold.

Other names are bandied about, such as Aisha Tyler, but to no avail.

Griffin worries, reasonably, that the ship has sailed for another generation of women. Most late-night hosts are new and on the young side, such as 39-year-old Jimmy Fallon. And based on the track records of Johnny Carson, Jay Leno and David Letterman, turnover is rare. □

# The circus is coming to town via movie theater

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Why run away to join the circus when it can come to you — at your local movie theater?

The live cinema event company BY Experience will broadcast the Big Apple Circus' new show "Metamorphosis" from New York via satellite to big screens across the U.S. and Canada on Nov. 8.

The show, which will be held in a big top in Lincoln Center, features clowns, juggling, acrobatics, aerial trapeze and music. The show's acts use camels, ferrets, horses and trained shelter dogs, and officials boast that the show is so intimate that no one sits more than 50 feet from ringside — except this time, for those watching



This undated image released by Big Apple Circus, shows ringmaster John Kennedy Kane of the Big Apple Circus.

Associated Press

from a cinema.

"For many families across the U.S. and around the world, getting to a circus

is quite challenging. It can be expensive. It can be out of reach in terms of location," said Julie

Borchard-Young, co-president of BY Experience.

"And not a lot of Hollywood feature films are produced for an audience as young as a 3-year-old. So we thought this was a unique way of engaging a wide-ranging audience with a performance that will engage them and maybe help them keep coming back to cinemas."

The move is a logical extension of the push to capture and broadcast live events. First there was the opera, then came plays and musicals. Now comes the circus, with popcorn and peanuts likely at your seat since they're also sold by the movie theater.

"It's meant to be an introduction and whet the appetite and hopefully inspire audiences to really

want to go in person and be a part of it," Borchard-Young said of the 2-hour show that includes a 15 minute intermission.

Three high-definition cameras will capture the show ringside. "It's fast-paced. It's exciting," said Jean-Jerome Peytavi, a vice president of the 37-year-old circus. "For us, it's great because the show traditionally is only on the East Coast. So to be able to offer the show to a constituency that we would not be able to offer in other years, that's very exciting." The show will be broadcast at 12:30 p.m. Eastern, 11:30 a.m. Central, 10:30 a.m. Mountain, and tape delayed to 12:30 p.m. Pacific. The program will also be seen internationally on varying dates beginning Nov. 15. □



## American Horror Story



FRANK BRUNI  
© 2014 New York Times

Like the smattering of other Americans who still pay close attention to the wearying spectacle of our country's politics, I worry about what will happen on Nov. 4, the day of the midterm elections.

But I worry even more about what will happen the day after, when a nation of people fed up with the stubborn dysfunction of our country's government realize that nothing's going to change and we're in for more of the same.

I worry about the combustible tension between our abysmal regard for the Congress that we've got and a near certainty that the Congress we're about to get will be its spit and image: familiar faces, timeworn histrionics, unending paralysis.

Our history is such that we just keep returning the incumbents; our system is such that insurgents are few and far between. They lack the money, and politics is increasingly about money. They lack name recognition, and it's the era of celebrity.

In all but one of the last five elections for the House, at least 90 percent of the incumbents vying for another term got one. In all but one of the last five Senate elections, at least 80 percent of incumbents fared similarly.

This would be a happy fact if Americans adored their government. But a new Gallup poll shows that only 14 percent approve of the job that Congress is doing.

In an ABC/Washington Post poll last month, a majority of Americans disapproved not only of Congress in general but of their own House members in particular. This departed from the norm. It charted a new frontier of disgust.

And it dovetailed with a belief among most Americans that the country is on the wrong track and in decline.

So on Nov. 4, it's out with the bums?

Ha.

I asked Stuart Rothenberg, the political analyst behind The Rothenberg Political Report, to review the current House and Senate races and predict the rate of incumbent success. He estimated that between 90 and 96 percent of the House members running for re-election will be victorious, and between 78

and 90 percent of incumbent senators will.

Yes, there's uncertainty over which party will wind up with control of the Senate.

But whatever happens, we'll still have a Democratic president facing off against a Republican House, with all or much of the acrimony that this combination has produced for the past few years. The "fever" that President Barack Obama talked about during the 2012 presidential campaign has never broken, and Nov. 4 won't deliver the ibuprofen that at last does the trick.

No, it will deliver us to Nov. 5, at which point Senate and House leaders will begin to plot their every step in terms of whether it hurts or helps their party's chances of taking the presidency in 2016.

That's what dominates our politics: a war to gain or maintain turf, not a battle for a better America. You see that in the negativity and political gyrations of the 2014 campaigns.

Democrats are running away from the president, and I don't mean just Kay Hagan of North Carolina and Mark Udall of Colorado, who wasn't even in the state when Obama did a fundraiser for him there. I mean Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire and Al Franken of Minnesota, who have questioned the administration's response to Islamic extremists.

Republicans are running away from their party's beleaguered brand and even their own pasts, as they discover newly calibrated positions on the minimum wage, say, or "personhood."

But what are all these politicians running toward? I know more about what they want to destroy than about what they yearn to create. That's partly because of all the campaign spending that's funneled through outside groups, which tend not to produce inspiring ads for the candidates they support but blistering ones against the candidates they oppose.

The system is toxic that way, and seems to have only enough oxygen to recycle known people and ideas, not to introduce and nurture new ones. With Jeb Bush looking less likely to run, Republicans are reassessing Mitt Romney. If Hillary Clinton takes a pass, Joe Biden's waiting, and it's not impossible that Jerry Brown swoops in.

Even the supposed mold breaker and flavor du jour, Rand Paul, comes with a road-tested surname, a dynastic leg up.

How a country so rightly anxious about the days ahead stays fixed in the days behind is the great paradox of the 2014 elections. Rothenberg told me that he used to think of this country's politics as a comedy. "Now," he said, "it's a tear-jerker."

I've been catching up with the first season of "American Horror Story," and our political travails bring to mind the freaked residents of that foul house. They can sense their doom. But they can't seem to get out. □



## Crime, Bias and Statistics in America



CHARLES M. BLOW  
© 2014 New York Times

Discussions of the relationship between blacks and the criminal justice system in this country too often grind to a halt as people slink down into their silos and arm themselves with their best rhetorical weapons - racial bias on one side and statistics in which minorities, particularly blacks, are over-represented as criminals on the other. What I find too often overlooked in this war of words is the intersection between the two positions, meaning the degree to which bias informs the statistics and vice versa.

The troubling association - in fact, overassociation - of blacks with criminality directly affects the way we think about both crime and blacks as a whole.

A damning report released by the Sentencing Project last week lays bare the bias and the interconnecting systemic structures that reinforce it and disproportionately affect African-Americans.

This is the kind of report that one really wants to publish in its totality, for its conclusion is such a powerful condemnation of the perversity of racial oppression. But alas, this being a newspaper column, that's not possible. Still, allow me to present many of their findings:

- "Whites are more punitive than blacks and Hispanics even though they experience less crime."
- "White Americans overestimate the proportion of crime com-

mitted by people of color and associate people of color with criminality. For example, white respondents in a 2010 survey overestimated the actual share of burglaries, illegal drug sales and juvenile crime committed by African-Americans by 20 percent to 30 percent."

- "White Americans who associate crime with blacks and Latinos are more likely to support punitive policies - including capital punishment and mandatory minimum sentencing - than whites with weaker racial associations of crime."

This association of crime with blacks has been noted by others. Lisa Bloom, in her book "Suspicion Nation," points out: "While whites can and do commit a great deal of minor and major crimes, the race as a whole is never tainted by those acts. But when blacks violate the law, all members of the race are considered suspect."

She further says: "The standard assumption that criminals are black and blacks are criminals is so prevalent that in one study, 60 percent of viewers who viewed a crime story with no picture of the perpetrator falsely recalled seeing one, and of those, 70 percent believed he was African-American. When we think about crime, we 'see black,' even when it's not present at all." As the Sentencing Project report makes clear, the entire government and media machinery is complicit in the distortion.

According to the report:

- "Whether acting on their own implicit biases or bowing to political exigency, policymakers have fused crime and race in their policy initiatives and statements. They have crafted harsh sentencing laws that impact all Americans and disproportionately incarcerate people of color."
- "Many media outlets reinforce the public's racial misconceptions about crime by presenting African-Americans and Latinos differently than whites - both quantitatively and qualitatively. Television news programs and newspapers overrepresent racial minorities as crime suspects and

whites as crime victims."

- "Disparities in police stops, in prosecutorial charging, and in bail and sentencing decisions reveal that implicit racial bias has penetrated all corners of the criminal justice system."

The effects of these perceptions and policies have been absolutely devastating for society in general and black people in particular. According to the report:

- "By increasing support for punitive policies, racial perceptions of crime have made sentencing more severe for all Americans. The United States now has the world's highest imprisonment rate, with one in nine prisoners serving life sentences. Racial perceptions of crime, combined with other factors, have led to the disparate punishment of people of color."

Although blacks and Latinos together comprise just 30 percent of the general population, they account for 58 percent of the prison population."

- "By increasing the scale of criminal sanctions and disproportionately directing penalties toward people of color, racial perceptions of crime have been counterproductive for public safety. Racial minorities' perceptions of unfairness in the criminal justice system have dampened cooperation with police work and impeded criminal trials. In 2013, over two-thirds of African-Americans saw the criminal justice system as biased against blacks, in contrast to one-quarter of whites. Crime policies that disproportionately target people of color can increase crime rates by concentrating the effects of criminal labeling and collateral consequences on racial minorities and by fostering a sense of legal immunity among whites."

There is no way in this country to discuss crime statistics without including in that discussion the myriad ways in which those statistics are informed and influenced by the systemic effects of racial distortion.

Individual behavior is only component of the numbers; bias is the other. □



# California Bill Sets Sights on Curbing Campus Sex Assaults

IAN LOVETT

© 2014 New York Times

LOS ANGELES - California is poised to become the first state to require all colleges that receive state funds to strengthen their policies on sexual assault by mandating that students give active consent to one another before all sexual activity, either by saying "yes" to a spoken query or by signal-

assault on 55 campuses nationwide and prodding all colleges to do more to stop it. The California rules - known as affirmative consent but popularly called "yes means yes" - would replace a standard in which no active agreement for sexual activity is required, but saying "no" is considered a threshold. Critics of the new policies

sent had to be informed and voluntary, and could be revoked at any moment.

At the session, new students were quizzed on ways they could obtain consent from a partner. From the audience, they shouted suggestions: Ask "Are you OK?" every few minutes, or go in only partway for a kiss and let your partner meet you

ing, 'Are you OK?' You're the one at risk of committing sexual violence or sexual assault. If your partner goes silent at any point, just stop. It's better to save it for another night than to risk something."

The new policy repudiates the old and widely held expectation that a person's failure to protest a particular act can be taken

another's. In effect, rather than saying "she didn't object," the accused could say "she gave consent." But officials at UCLA said the new policy had already made it easier to find students responsible for an alleged assault than it had been in the past.

Dianne Klein, a spokeswoman for the University of California system, which adopted a new affirmative consent policy in March, said a "yes" could be a vigorous head nod, or active engagement in the sexual activity, as long as it was "unambiguous and voluntary."

"There is no magic word," she said.

Given this ambiguity, however, critics have argued that the rules place an unreasonable burden on someone accused of sexual assault, who must now show that consent was given.

"This bill is dangerous," said Anne D. Neal, the president of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a non-profit that works on issues of academic freedom. "Sexual assault is a crime, and when a crime occurs, it is imperative that the victim go to law enforcement so that appropriate action can be taken. An in-between that ignores constitutional protections, minimizes the standard of proof, is something that will do great harm to the accused."

Most victims never go to the police, in part because sexual assault cases are often difficult to prosecute. One example is Savannah Badalich, 21, a senior at UCLA who woke up one night her sophomore year to find a friend sexually assaulting her. She decided not to report the attack, afraid that no one would believe her.

"It would have been his credibility against mine," she said.

She has since become an advocate for survivors of sexual assault and said that the affirmative consent standard would make it easier for victims to come forward.



Students walk across UCLA's campus in Los Angeles. California is poised to become the first state to require all state-funded colleges to mandate that students give active consent before any sexual activity, though the state legislature's bill has drawn criticism for being vague, including no clear definition of consent.

(Kendrick Brinson/The New York Times)

ing assent in a nonverbal way.

If Gov. Jerry Brown signs the measure passed by the California Legislature, the new standards would apply both to public universities in the state - many of which have already adopted such rules - as well as the many private colleges where students receive state grants. The bill's supporters hope that it will not only reduce sexual assaults but also encourage more victims, who often fear they will not be believed, to report sexual violence on campuses.

The legislation comes at a time when the federal Education Department has been investigating sexual

accuse the colleges and lawmakers of trying to micromanage sex and imposing a standard of consent so vague that it would be difficult to know what constituted a "yes."

The California legislation includes no clear definition of affirmative consent, which presumably could take many forms. And on campuses where such rules have been established without prodding from the state, some students are bewildered.

At the University of California, Los Angeles, this month's freshman orientation included a one-hour session on the policy, which took effect this spring. Students were told that con-

halfway.

"I'm more confused than I was at the beginning - it's scary," Harishwer Balasubramani, 18, from Pittsburgh, said after the session. "You don't grow up going in for a kiss and pausing to ask if you can kiss them or not. But looking at all these rules, you just have to be really cautious and make sure you communicate."

Roxanne Neal, the university official who led the workshop, told students they were right to proceed cautiously in any sexual encounter, especially if they had been drinking or did not know their partner well. "If you're the initiator, you need to get consent," she said. "You need to be ask-

as consent. Advocates for assault victims hail the California legislation as an important step in educating people about what consent means.

"This is a paradigm shift, no question about it," said Kevin de León, the Democratic California state senator who sponsored the bill. "For too long, the deck has been stacked against young women, when they've had to prove that 'no' meant 'no.' We're hoping this is a model for the rest of the country."

Exactly how these measures would change enforcement of the rules is less clear. As always, cases are likely to come down to one person's word against